CrossTalk

September 2026 Serving Amateur Radio & Our Community For 67 Years Issue 67 : 09

2026 Club Officers

President :	Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF
Vice President :	Ronald Block NR2B
Treasurer :	John O'Connell K2QA
Recording Secretary :	John Zaruba Jr K2ZA
Corresponding Secretary :	Michael Resnick N2WOQ

Trustees - 4 Year Term

Sheldon Parker K2MEN	(2023-2026)
Len Rust W2LJR	(2024-2027)
Earl Moore KC2NCH	(2025-2028)
Greg Ciraula K3GC	(2026-2029)

Directors - 3 Year Term

Al Arrison KB2AYU	(2024-2026)	Frank Romeo N3PUU	(2025-2027)
Bill Price NJ2S	(2024-2026)	Chris Prioli AD2CS	(2026-2028)
Jeffrey Garth WB2ZBN	(2025-2027)	James Wright N2GXJ	(2026-2028)

Fort Mott Revolutionary War Special Event
Saturday, September 26-27, 2026
https://tinyurl.com/mpzw67cn

General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, September 02, 2026 @ 1900 Hours
In-Person & ZOOM : 982 4039 1944, 091084

Tech Saturday Forum
Saturday, September 05, 2026 @ 0900 Hours
W2MMD Clubhouse

License Testing Session
Thursday, September 10, 2026 @ 1900 Hours
W2MMD Clubhouse

New Jersey QSO Party
Saturday, September 12, 2026
1000 Hours To 2200 Hours

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2026 @ 1900 Hours
W2MMD Clubhouse

Dinner @ The W2MMD Clubhouse
Wednesday, September 23, 2026 @ 1800 Hours

Tuesday AfterNoon 2M Net @ 1200 Hours
Thursday Night 2M Net @ 2000 Hours

Monday & Thursday Night 40M Net @ 1930 Hours
7.172 MHz (+/- 10 kHz)

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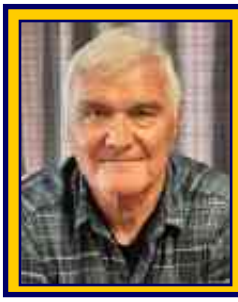


President's Letter
Jon Pearce WB2MNF

September 2026

August is generally a slow month for Club activities - the vacation season combined with summer heat tends to stifle activities. That was certainly not the case this year as August instead offered up a multitude of events and activities for Club members to enjoy.

Rich Subers W2RHS SK

First, though, is a sad note. As most members know our long-time member and friend **Rich Subers W2RHS** passed away earlier this month after a long fight with cancer. Rich was a constant presence at Club events and contributed significantly to the activities of the Club. About a dozen Club members attended his memorial service. He will be missed by all of us.

CrossTalk Wins National Award

On a happier note, and as you have no doubt already heard, ARRL has awarded CrossTalk First Place in the Large Club category of the 2026 ARRL Year of the Club Newsletter Contest - a national award, out of a field of more than 80 entries. The judges praised our well-written narratives, positive tone, and the variety of content, and felt that CrossTalk made good on our motto, ***"Learning Stuff. Building Stuff. Doing Stuff - TOGETHER!"*** The lion's share of the credit belongs to **Jeff Garth WB2ZBN**, who month after month pulls together the content, the writing, and the polish that make CrossTalk something we all look forward to. I accepted the award on the Club's behalf at the Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville, Alabama on August 22nd, which this year also served as the 2026 ARRL National Convention.

Jeff, on behalf of the entire membership - thank you, and congratulations. This one is yours.

Revolutionary War POTA Event A Success!

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of **Stan Slachetka WA2JRZ** about a dozen members took the trip down to one of the southernmost points in New Jersey to operate their POTA stations at the historic Hancock House. This provided an unexpected opportunity for some newer POTA operators to learn from the "pros" about antenna selection and setup, operating practices, power provision and many other aspects of POTA and ham radio operation. The next event is the Fort Mott activity in September which we expect will draw many more members as participants and spectators. Fort Mott Registration Portal : **https://registration.w2mmd.org/wpregp/pota-signup-fort-mott**

Meteor Scatter Event Brings Out 9 Members for 13 Early Morning Contacts

Despite the ungodly hour of 4 AM nine Club members met at the Clubhouse to attempt to bounce radio waves off of meteors flying through the sky, an activity with as much excitement as watching professional cycling or pickleball. Nonetheless, through the efforts of **Sheldon Parker K2MEN** who figured out how to get the Flex 6400 to talk to WSJT (there are a LOT of virtual audio devices on a Flex…) and **Al Arrison KB2AYU**'s relentless operating efforts we were able to work 13 genuine meteor scatter contacts between 4 and 6 AM, as is described in more detail starting on Page 11. Thanks to all who were interested enough to get up early to experience this unique part of our hobby.

President's Letter - Continued on page 3

President's Letter - Continued from page 2

Inspira Health System Opportunities

On the emergency communications front, **John Zaruba K2ZA** and I met with representatives of Inspira Health, who would like to establish ham radio communications among their six hospitals. John's experience at Cooper, and his work developing local resources such as our repeaters and APRS digipeaters, was critical to the success of that meeting. Our next step is to design and implement an RF coverage analysis to determine whether these hospitals can communicate using 2 meter simplex with the radios and frequencies available to them, and to identify the alternatives if the simplex option turns out not to be practical.

Philly Meshtastic Leadership Meeting

We also hosted a visit from the Philly Mesh group at the Clubhouse. Four of them made the trip down, three of whom are hams, and at least one has since joined the Club. All were impressed with our Clubhouse facilities. We walked through the HAM1 and HAM2 Meshtastic stations on our tower, and they showed us several innovative designs of their own - including a node with two separate LoRa transmitters that can be managed remotely over the internet, and another built around a floating nautical buoy with its own solar cells and batteries.

The visit was largely a meet and greet, but we had some significant discussions about our respective goals and about coordinating our efforts. In particular we discussed GCARC standing up a MeshCore network, which is of real interest to a number of our members. MeshCore is not an area of interest to the Philadelphia group, but they have no issue with us pursuing it. It was a productive afternoon and I expect we will be working with them again.

GCARC Public Service Communications Organizational Meeting

Finally, a meeting on public service communications was held earlier this month, attended by several stakeholders participating in various aspects of emergency communications. The mission was to assess our current activities and find opportunities to develop a more effective and responsive organization. This topic needs more discussion before anything definitive occurs, but hopefully by the end of the year we will have a structure in place, with committed individuals, to move it forward. This initiative will provide opportunities for all interested Club members to take part in an important function of our hobby.

There is no shortage of things going on, and no shortage of room for more members to take part. If any of the above is of interest to you, please let me know.

73 de Jon WB2MNF

Route 66 On The Air Special Event

Saturday, September 12, 2026 to Sunday, September 20, 2026

www.w6jbt.org

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, September 02, 2026 @ 1900 Hours

Pfeiffer Community Center

Simulcast Live Via ZOOM Meeting Link : https://bit.ly/4s67geS

Go to : https://gloucestercountyarc.weebly.com/2026-content--activities--resources.html to download the ZOOM log-on instructions PDF

Stewarding New Futures For Old Technologies : Amateur Radio In The Age Of AI
By Brian Robert Callahan AD2BA

Amateur radio is entering a transformative moment as artificial intelligence rapidly advances while community norms struggle to keep pace. In this month's program, **Brian Callahan AD2BA**, will explore this tension by revisiting his groundbreaking ***FMBot*** project and examining how ***"better"*** AI now produces errors that look like competence. In his words with some AI help.

In Stewarding New Futures for Old Technologies : Amateur Radio in the Age of AI, **Dr. Brian Robert Callahan AD2BA**, reflects on the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence within amateur radio and the community's slow response in developing norms around its use. Brian revisits his 2023 QEX article with ***Hisen Zhang KD2TAI***, where they introduced ***FMBot***, an AI system that monitored FM signals via SDR, transcribed received audio, and posted the results online without human intervention. At that time, they urged amateurs to begin discussing ethical guidelines for AI on the airwaves. Three years later, Brian argues that while the technology has advanced dramatically, ***"the conversation stood still."***

Callahan notes that what was once a complex research project is now ***"closer to a weekend install,"*** with more powerful replications emerging from others. Yet the amateur community has not meaningfully addressed the implications. He emphasizes that despite advances, human operators still outperform AI at the margins because ***"humans supply context the model lacks."*** Current language models are trained on general English rather than the specialized vocabulary and cadence of amateur radio, leading him to suggest that perhaps it is time to build a ***"ham radio lingo LLM."***

He contrasts early transcription errors - such as ***FMBot*** repeatedly interpreting silence as ***"the"*** - with today's models, which generate fluent but fabricated sentences during silent periods. This shift reveals a paradox : modern AI appears more competent while simultaneously introducing more subtle and potentially misleading errors. As he writes, ***" 'Better' AI ironically gave us errors that look like competence,"*** a lesson with implications far beyond transcription.

Brian also raises concerns about ***consent and privacy***. He recounts discovering that a local repeater had been streamed online for years without operator permission. When combined with automatic transcription, casual on air remarks become permanent, searchable records and potential training data for commercial AI systems.

September 2026 General Membership Meeting - Continued on page 5

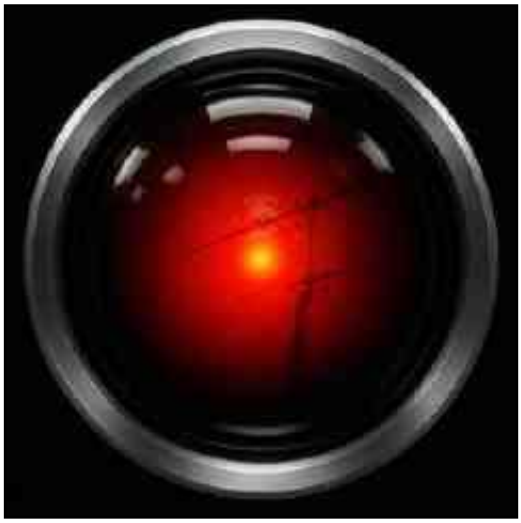
September 2026 General Membership Meeting - Continued from page 4

Although FCC rules permit interception and divulgence of amateur transmissions, he stresses that ***"the law is not etiquette,"*** and the community has yet to define responsible norms for AI mediated listening and publishing.

Looking forward, Callahan explores emerging challenges around identity, authentication, and Part 97 compliance. AI systems can already clone voices, answer calls autonomously, and blur the boundaries of unattended operation. At the same time, he highlights opportunities : enabling voice contesting for operators with disabilities, conducting Club nets over RF instead of video platforms, and enabling real time translation during DX contacts.

Callahan concludes by situating AI within a broader tradition of innovation in amateur radio. His prior work - embedding binary data in CW, hiding information in SSTV images, and experimenting with SSTV based games - reflects a belief that amateurs are custodians of ***"new futures for old technologies."*** AI, he argues, is simply the next frontier. It is already present on the airwaves, and the community must decide whether to proactively craft its etiquette or passively inherit rules shaped by others.

Bring your thoughts and ideas and be ready for some interaction!



Tech Saturday Forum

September 05, 2026 @ 0900 Hours

W2MMD Clubhouse

Forum Topic : GCARC AI Projects

Tech Saturday Forums are held at the W2MMD Clubhouse on the first Saturday of the month following the Wednesday Night General Membership Meeting and are designed to be hands-on collaborative events focused on using the Clubhouse resources to demonstrate various aspects of Amateur Radio and related technical areas. Previous sessions have covered USB software-defined radios, Raspberry Pi and Arduino devices, satellite operations, antenna builds, and other similar topics.

We would like to invite all of our new members as well as our veteran members to our Tech Saturday Forums to help answer any questions and discuss any and all issues the new members have come across as they progress through the ***Amateur Radio Experience.***

The Discussion Theme is a QSO starting point - a way to initiate a conversation. All Tech Saturday Forums are an open QSO of all subjects of Amateur Radio interest. All questions are welcome as well as a venue for hams to show off their latest ham radio projects or gadgets. Have a problem programming that HT, we can help! Not sure what radio or antenna to buy, we can help!

All Club Members who would like Clubhouse access to use its radio equipment would have to have some brief ***"Elmering"*** on the Clubhouse rules, such as using the alarm system, the A/C and heaters, the antenna system, and the radio equipment. The Club's HF station is reserved for local use on Tech Saturday Forum.

All are welcome - Hams and Non-Hams - Club Members and Non-Club Members.

Welcome New Club Members :

- **Luis Acosta KE2JBN, a General Class from Westampton, NJ**
- **Vince Lomino KD3DRZ, a Technician Class from Philadelphia, PA**
- **Larry Mapow KX2M, (Returning Member 2023) an Amateur Extra Class from Millville, NJ**
- **Dominic Rota, an Associate Member from Williamstown, NJ**
- **Tyler Wall KO4UUT, a General Class from Dawsonville, GA**
- **Kyle Yankanich K3YLE, a General Class from Norristown, PA**

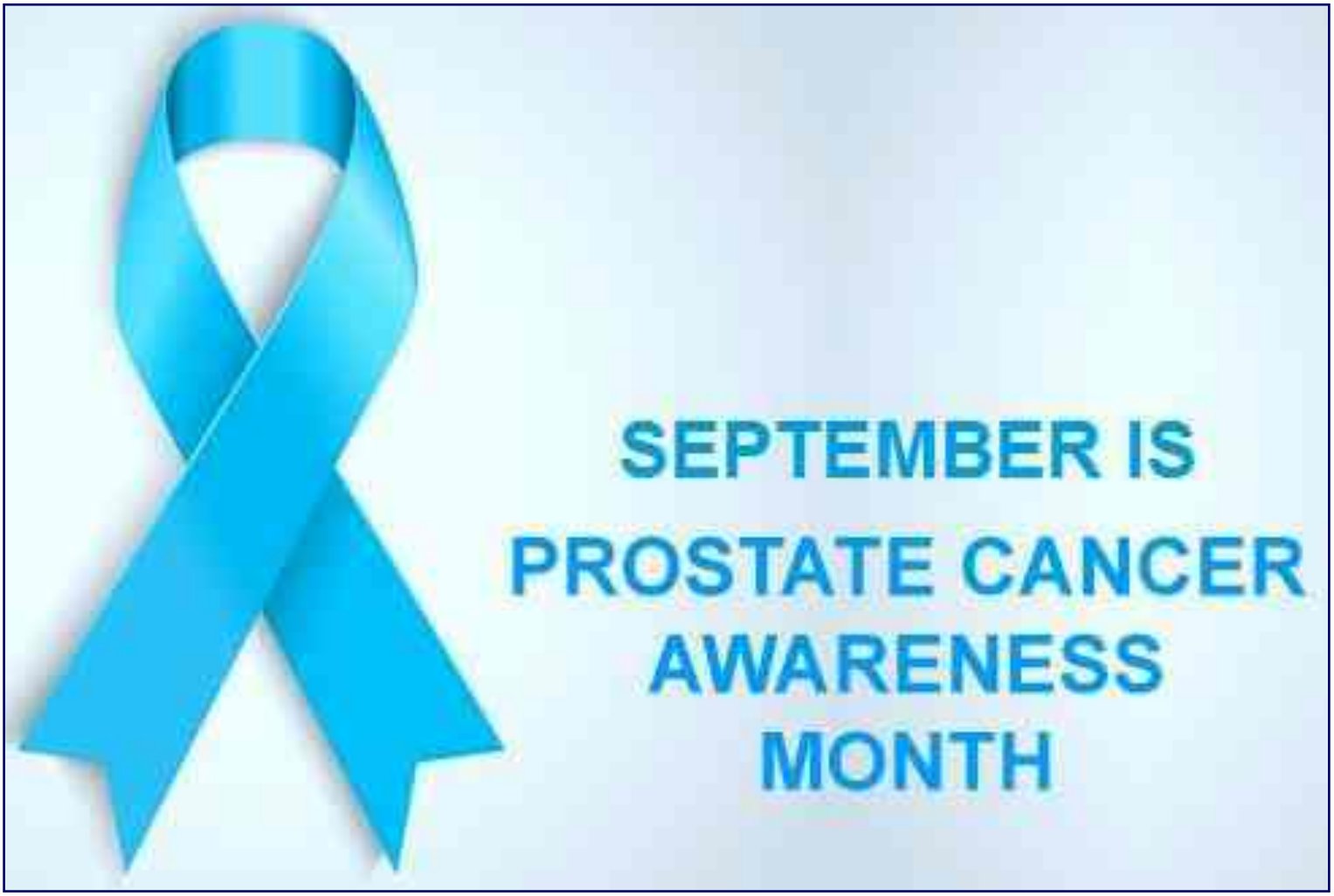
We are glad to have you as a member of the Club and hope to see you regularly at Club meetings, events, and activities. Hope to see you at :

- **The September 2nd General Membership Meeting, either in-person or on ZOOM**
- **The September 5th Tech Saturday Forum @ the W2MMD Clubhouse**
- **The Board of Directors Meeting on September 16th**
- **The Dinner @ The W2MMD Clubhouse on September 23rd**
- **Fort Mott POTA & Special Event Activation on September 26th & 27th**

We also hope to "SEE" you on the "AIR" on the following nets :

- **Sunday Night Skywarn 2 Meter Net @ 1930 Hours**
- **Sunday Night ARES 2 Meter Net @ 2000 Hours**
- **Tuesday AfterNoon 2 Meter Net @ 1200 Hours**
- **Monday & Thursday Night 40 Meter Nets on 7.172 MHz (+/- 10 kHz) @ 1930 Hours**
- **Thursday Night Rag Chew 2 Meter Net @ 2000 Hours**

All 2 Meter Nets are on our 147.180 MHz (PL 131.8) repeater and EchoLink W2MMD-R.



Get On The Air For The 2026 New Jersey QSO Party!

By Terry Rossi N2LQH

Saturday, September 12, 2026 - 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM EDT (1400–0200 UTC)

Here's your chance to be the DX everyone's chasing. The **Burlington County Radio Club** is putting on the 2026 New Jersey QSO Party, and for one Saturday, every station in the Garden State becomes a hot commodity.

Note the change this year - the NJQP moved up a week. Mark it down : Saturday, September 12, 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM New Jersey time.

You don't need a big station for this one. No amplifier required, no 12-hour commitment. Turn the radio on, make a few contacts, and you're in the game.

If you're operating from inside New Jersey, work as many stations in the US, Canada, and DX as you can. If you're outside the state, you're hunting - New Jersey's got 21 counties, and everybody's trying to bag as many as possible.

How easy is a contact? Here's a typical exchange :

- **AK2S: "CQ New Jersey QSO Party, AK2S." W3FRC: "W3FRC." AK2S: "W3FRC, you're 59 Burlington." W3FRC: "Thanks, 59 Pennsylvania." AK2S: "Thank you. AK2S, QRZ?"**

That's the whole exchange. Log it, move on, find the next one.

You've got 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters to work with - CW, Phone, and Digital modes that can complete the exchange are all fair game. Single-Op, Multi-Op, high power, low power, QRP, Fixed, Portable, Mobile, or Rover - all welcome, and assisted operation and self-spotting are allowed.

So there's no excuse. Work an hour from the shack. Grab a radio and head to the field. Put a quiet county on the air. Round up a few Club members for a multi-op, or go big and rove through several counties in a day.

Make it a Club challenge. Individual scores can roll up into an official NJ Club Aggregate Score - so this doesn't have to be a solo mission. It doesn't matter how you operate :

- **Home station**
- **Portable**
- **Mobile**
- **Rover**
- **Multi-op with a buddy, it all counts.**

If you're in one of the less-active counties, your signal is worth more than you think.

When you submit your log, be sure to list your Club designation so your score gets credited correctly - you'll need to be a bona-fide member in good standing and operating from within New Jersey. Skip that step and your contacts won't count toward the Club total.

2026 New Jersey QSO Party - Continued on page 8

2026 New Jersey QSO Party - Continued from page 7

Logging software : **N1MM Logger+**, **N3FJP**, **DXLog**, and **World Radio League** all handle state QSO parties without issue. Submit logs in Cabrillo format by October 1 to **NewJerseyQSOParty@gmail.com**. Full rules and scoring details are at the official **NJQP site (https://sites.google.com/view/k2td-bcrc/nj-qp)** - read them before you get on, since categories and multipliers can shift year to year.

Five contacts or five hundred, it all adds up. Every QSO is activity, every QSO is fun, and every QSO could be the one that pushes a Club's aggregate score higher.

Mark your calendar : Saturday, September 12, 2026. Let's put New Jersey on the air.

73 de N2LQH · Terry Rossi · South Jersey

DAs & DITs

>> Congratulations to the following Club Members :

- **Diane Amico W2WHD** : Upgrade to Amateur Extra Class
- **Michael Canino KD2LBU (ex, KE2IXG) :** New Vanity Callsign
- **Dan Devlin KS2D** (ex. KC2GYU) : Upgrade to Amateur Extra Class & Vanity callsign
- **Angela Metzger KE2DRJ** : Upgrade to Amateur Extra Class

Field Day 2026 After Action Report - Part Deux

By Jim Wright N2GXJ

Hi all,

I just got finished with reading the newest issue of CrossTalk, and after re-reading my own work, I think that I should add a bit of an expansion to my Field Day article that was published.

When I originally wrote the piece that was printed, my thoughts were of the mindset that I was writing a quick one-pager, as we had already discussed much of the day's happenings at the Pizza Night that was our July General Membership Meeting. Now, I think that I should add a bit of expanded information.

This year, there were actually two trailer-mounted crank-up towers in use, one by **Al Arrison KB2AYU**, working 10-meter digital and phone, and the other by **Eric Morris N2BRJ** for his 20-meter digital team. This was in addition to **Tony Starr K3TS** 's assemble-on-site crank up tower. There were numerous campers and tow-behind trailers used as shelters this year, a significant change from what had in the past had looked like a tent campground. Getting these shelters to the Clubhouse site involved some considerable planning and effort. For example, in the case of Al, and Eric, they had to drag both their tower trailer and then their shelter trailers to the site. And in the case of Tony, it required significant on-site assembly and many helping hands to get his pair of Yagi and dipole tower mounted into the air. This speaks of a certain level of dedication and commitment to the Field Day spirit.

At least two (of which I am aware) of the shelter trailers were purpose-rented for the event, those being the ones used by **Greg K3GC** and **Mary Lu K3MLC Ciraula** for their 15-meter phone effort, and by **Chris Prioli AD2CS** and his 20-meter phone team. Of course, as I already mentioned, **Tony Starr K3TS** had his trailer there, as did **John Zaruba K2ZA**, and **Glen KE2BUO** and **Melissa KE2BWZ Guenther**. **Bill Price NJ2S** ran his 40-meter phone effort from within another rented vehicle. This time, it was a standard U-Haul® Econoline-type cargo van. Bill went so far (again this year) to bring in a cherry-picker boom truck to raise his antenna into place - courtesy of another electrician friend.

Going back to the topic of Eric's efforts for a moment, I would like to mention that he had a really interesting-looking antenna array at the top of his tower. Not only did it look interesting, but it operated great. Eric had graciously allowed me to sign up work with him on the overnight operating crew, and with that antenna, the band stayed open making contacts all night until the morning crew he'd scheduled arrived to give us a break. Loved every minute of it! I would like to know more about this particular antenna, if Eric is willing to share his thoughts and knowledge regarding the antenna setup. I have never seen one quite like that one, and I find it quite interesting.

Another interesting point that we talked about at the meeting, but I failed to bring out in the short CrossTalk write up was the fact that each of the 15-meter, 20-meter, and 40-meter phone teams utilized the Club's new home-brewed notch filters to reduce interference from the CW operations on each of those respective bands. This was the first time that the filters were used for 15m and 40m phone operations, while the 20m phone team used the prototype filter during the 2025 Field Day event.

And then there was the custom flag sporting this year's field day logo that you may have seen flying at Greg and Mary Lu's trailer. And the custom T-shirts that members of Eric's crew, including **Phil Nunzio WA3RGY** and **Lenny Rust W2LJR** and myself were sporting when over at Eric's station. And the custom POTA-themed welcome sign outside of Glen and Melissa's camper. If you missed the pictures shown of these during the pizza night, we'll have **Jeff Garth WB2ZBN** get them up on our web page, if they're not there already.

N2GXJ Field Day : Part Deux - Continued on page 10

N2GXJ Field Day : Part Deux - Continued from page 9

Needless to say, there was a lot more to be seen and said than I could possibly cover in any article of reasonable length. Also, there had to be a good number of new things tried, with lessons learned, and technological differences that showed up this year. If you experimented with some new technology or tried some new equipment, or experienced operating on the air for the first time at our GOTA station, we'd love for you to share your experiences. Drop a note to me via email letting me know about your field day experiences. I will then be better able to share that information with the Club at large.

Thank you again for a very successful field day!

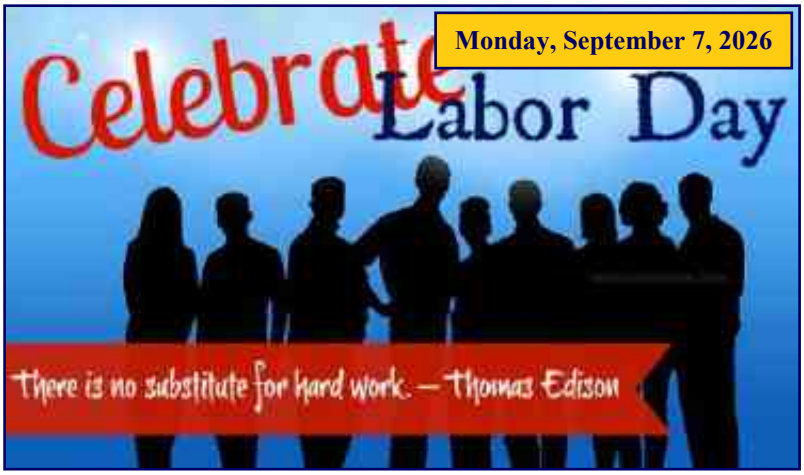
Field Day 2026 Experience

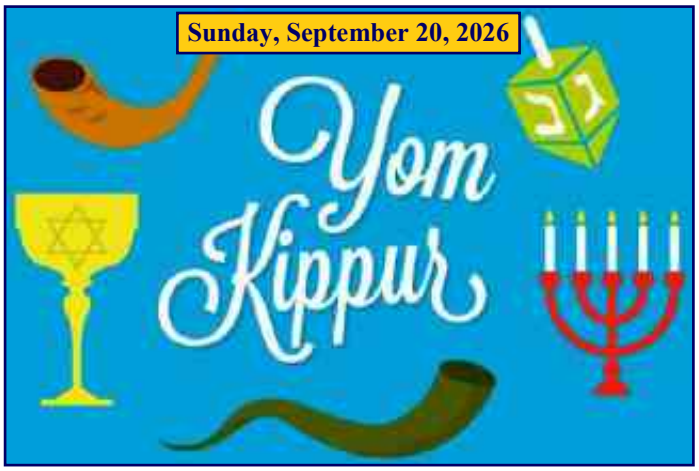
By Mike Resnick N2WOQ

Those who got on the air had the best experience, thanks to you!

Field Day was a mixture of outcomes. I was disappointed in the response of my emails to schools in South Jersey. The phone calls to Club members and a local friend were fruitful. I was pleased that we were able to beat last year's total contacts. Two of the guest operators were very much interested in pursuing ham radio further. **Chris Prioli**'s granddaughter, **Cara**, is very enthusiastic and has constructed her own end-fed antenna in preparation of her future radio hobby. **Russell Stevenson**'s wife **Sandy** was our last operator on Sunday morning and has committed to becoming licensed and has joined the Club! I feel that we had improvement on logging by utilizing N3FJP software to record out contacts. We even had a contact with W1AW.

Using this experience will allow me to tailor next year's GOTA station for greater success, weather permitting.





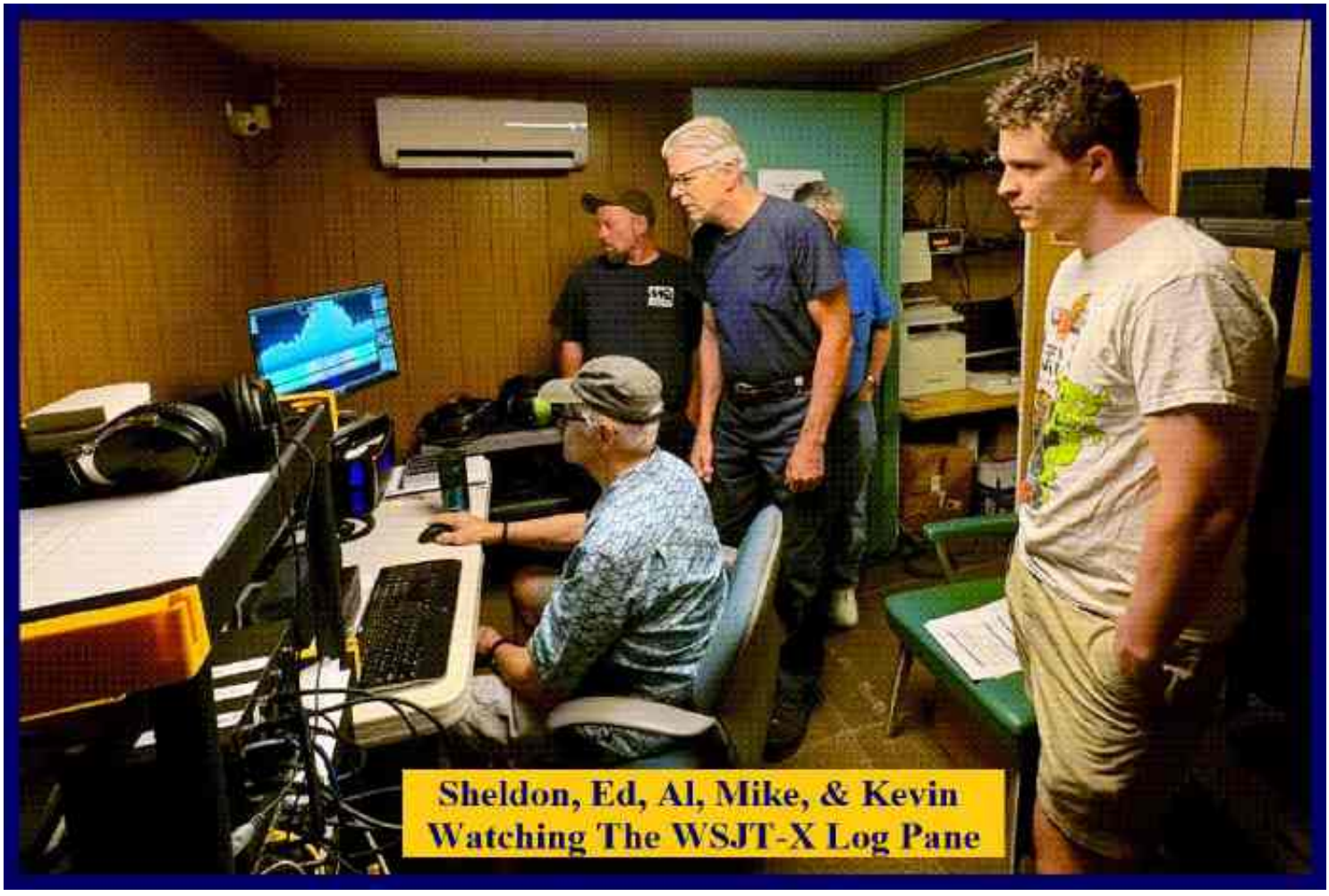
Bouncing Signals Off Shooting Stars : A Perseids Morning @ W2MMD

By Jon Pearce WB2MNF

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Nine GCARC members rolled into the Clubhouse well before dawn this morning to try something most of us had never done : bounce 6 meter signals off the ionized trails of shooting stars. The Perseid meteor shower was near its peak, and the pre dawn hours are prime for it - at that hour the Earth turns into the direction of its orbit and sweeps up meteors head on, giving roughly three times the activity you'd see at dusk. So the alarm clocks went off early and we got to work.

The station was pure Club iron. Our Flex 6400 ran on 6 meters into the tube amplifier, feeding the 4 element beam up on the tower. The shack computer ran WSJT X in MSK144, the digital mode built for exactly this kind of work. MSK144 fires the same tiny packet - about 70 milliseconds long - over and over across a 15 second transmit window, so that even a meteor "ping" lasting a fraction of a second can deliver a complete callsign and grid square. It's a clever trick, and watching it actually work is half the fun.



Sheldon, Ed, Al, Mike, & Kevin
Watching The WSJT-X Log Pane

It wasn't all smooth at the start. WSJT X wasn't hearing the radio - the audio channels coming from the Flex weren't routed correctly, and without them the software is deaf and mute. Fortunately **Sheldon Parker K2MEN**, knew exactly where to look, had the DAX channels sorted out in short order, and we were on the air. **Chris Prioli AD2CS**, kept us plugged into the Ping Jockey Central chat room, relaying who was on, what frequency they were using, and which transmit sequence they were running - the coordination net that turns a needle in a haystack mode into real, scheduled contacts.

Bouncing Signals Off Shooting Stars - Continued on page 12

Bouncing Signals Off Shooting Stars - Continued from page 11

And **Al Arrison KB2AYU**, did most of the operating, calling and answering as the pings came and went.

Let's be honest : it is not an edge of your seat spectator sport. You point the beam, you transmit for fifteen seconds, you listen for fifteen seconds, and mostly you wait. It is, however, oddly fascinating to listen to. During a transmission you can actually hear the mode at work - a steady buzz as that roughly 70 millisecond packet is fired off some 200 times across the fifteen seconds. And on receive, the character of a signal tells you a lot : strong, steady signals are almost certainly nearby stations arriving direct, while the weak, fleeting bursts are the interesting ones - signals reflected off a meteor trail hundreds of miles away.

Kevin, Ed, John, & Glen Watching The WSJT-X Log Pane

The real payoff, such as it is, arrives in a quiet flash - the moment a new line drops into the WSJT X log pane, meaning a contact has completed. A grid square 700 or 900 miles away that you'd never hear on 6 meters by any other means. That little pane lighting up earned a small cheer more than once.

There was one more source of satisfaction, and it didn't require a completed contact at all. On a second screen we kept PSK Reporter open - the site that maps every station that decodes your signal - and our 6 meter MSK144 signal on 50.260 MHz was lighting up nearly the entire eastern half of the country. Reception reports came in from New England and the Canadian Maritimes, down through the Mid Atlantic and Southeast to Florida, west across the Great Lakes and Midwest, and all the way to Texas - with a scattering of hits as far as the West Coast. Most of those were stations that heard W2MMD rather than full two way contacts (a meteor has to be in just the right spot for both ends at the same instant), but it was striking confirmation that our modest station was getting out impressively far. Even when the log pane sat quiet, that map kept reminding us the signal was reaching hundreds of stations.

Bouncing Signals Off Shooting Stars - Continued on page 13

Bouncing Signals Off Shooting Stars - Continued from page 12

Rx at Thu 13 Aug 2026 08:33:15 GMT
From W2MMD by WA1NLO in United States Loc FN41XS
Frequency: 50.260 MHz (Bin) MSK144, +3dB
Distance: 305 miles bearing 60°
Using: JTBurnner 1.5.9257.35002
Rig: Icom IC-7300
PSK Reporter Signal Map

And it turned out to be a thoroughly good morning at the Clubhouse. Between contacts there was good conversation and a little productive work : out at the tower, Al took the opportunity to disconnect the corrupted 2 meter feedline for the satellite antennas so it can be replaced. Everyone got to watch - and try - a mode of operating that was brand new to most of us.

One of the best parts is how little setup it takes. Meteor scatter needs nothing beyond a normal 6 meter station : the radio, an amplifier, a beam, and free software. There's no special hardware to build or buy. Compare that to EME moonbounce - where you're looking at a dish, 1296 MHz transverters, and dedicated amplifiers before you can make a peep. With meteor scatter, if your 6 meter station already works, you're ready to go.

We'll very likely make this an annual outing and work the Perseids again next August. If you've never seen and heard MSK144 in action, put it on your calendar. It's worth the early alarm.

On hand this morning : Al Arrison KB2AYU, John Zaruba Jr. K2ZA, Chris Prioli AD2CS, Sheldon Parker K2MEN, Mike Resnick N2WOQ, Glen Guenther KE2BUO, Ed Warren KE2IVT, Kevin Durrenberger AD2NB, and Jon Pearce WB2MNF.

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club W2MMD

Celebrating 67 Years of Service to Amateur Radio & Our Community

Established in 1959

8th Annual ARRL SNJ Section Convention

48th Annual HamFest – Sunday October 11, 2026

Are You A HamFester?

Do you know that feeling of pure relief when you finally locate the exact vintage tuning capacitor needed to finish a passion project? Do you love the thrill of picking up a reliable second HT at an unbeatable price? Are you happiest when your old tools, parts, or radios find a great new home while your wallet expands?

If you answered yes to any of these, then you absolutely qualify - and you need to be here!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 11th. You've got to come check out our annual HamFest, because we do things a little differently.

Here is why this year's event is a must-attend :

- **Massive 27-Acre Venue :** We are located at the expansive Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds in Mullica Hill, New Jersey. This beautiful facility features parking for over 1,000 vehicles, giving everyone plenty of room to navigate.
- **150+ Outdoor Selling Spaces :** For those looking to clear out their shacks, we have more than adequate!
- **Streamlined Vendor Setup :** We are implementing brand-new outdoor vendor parking and unloading methods this year. Our goal is simple: get you into your spot quickly so you can set up and start selling without the hassle.
- **Covered Spaces Opening Soon :** Prefer to stay out of the sun? We have covered spaces opening up shortly for online reservations. As of **September 1, 2026**, go to : **https://hamfest.w2mmd.org**
- **Keep an eye out so you can secure yours early!**

Maximize Your Day with the "Buddy System"
Want to sell your gear but still want time to browse the tables? Try the Buddy System! Bring a friend and tag your items with two different colored stickers. One of you can shop the grounds while the other holds down the store, then switch halfway through the day. It's the perfect way to get the best of both worlds.

Investing in the Future of Amateur Radio
We are proud to debut our new youth education center at this event! Our **South Jersey Youth Coordinator, Angela Metzger KE2DRJ**, will be on-site instructing the young folks on basic electronic principles and hands-on Morse code. Bring the kids or grandkids along to spark their interest in the hobby!

Stay Tuned for More Details
More complete information, including full scheduling, ticketing, and online reservation links, will be furnished on our official HamFest website **https://hamfest.w2mmd.org** on September 1st.

We can't wait to see you there. 73!
Mike Resnick N2WOQ, Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club, Mullica Hill, NJ

Web site: HamFest.W2MMD.org eMail: HamFest@W2MMD.org

2026 HamFest : A Major Club Event Returns : October 11, 2026

By Ron Block NR2B

We are gearing up for our annual HamFest, taking place on Sunday, October 11, 2026 at the Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds in Mullica Hill - the same location we proudly call home. As our largest public event and primary fundraiser, HamFest continues to grow in scale, reputation, sophistication, and community impact.

If you wish to volunteer for our HamFest, go to :
https://gloucestercountyarc.weebly.com/2026-hamfest-sign-up-sheet.html

Streamlined Vendor Reservations

Last year we introduced a reservation system for the 70 covered exhibition spaces across four pavilions. Vendors were able to pre pay, stop briefly at the Gate, and proceed directly to their reserved location. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive : smoother traffic flow, reduced congestion, and a more professional experience for everyone involved. We are pleased to continue this reservation process for 2026, See **HamFest.W2MMD.org**

Introducing the Youth Zone

A major new initiative this year focuses on engaging students in grades 6 through 12 with the world of amateur radio. Led by **Angela Metzger KE2DRJ**, the **Youth Zone** will offer hands on activities, fun facts, and radio themed games. To encourage young operators, one licensed participant will take home an HT.

Additional Activities

Beyond the **Youth Zone**, we will host a Special Event Station celebrating our 48th Annual HamFest. The **West Deptford BSA Troop 9** will once again provide a nutritious breakfast and lunch for attendees.

In the Classroom, we are pleased to present the following sessions :

- **09:00 : Doing More with APRS: Applications and Hardware John Zaruba K2ZA**
- **10:00 : Atlantic Division Director's Report Marty Newingham AG3I**
- **11:00 : Space Comm & Youth Angela Metzger KE2DRJ**

ARRL VEC license testing will take place in the Club House between 08:00 and 11:00. Preregistration is required, See **VETEAM.W2MMD.ORG**.

Behind the Scenes : Volunteer Power

A successful HamFest relies on the coordinated effort of roughly 45 Club volunteers. Preparations begin Saturday evening at 17:00 with classroom and Gate setup, PA system installation, pavilion marking, and layout of more than 100 outdoor tailgate spaces and temporary roadways.

Some covered space vendors arrive overnight and are greeted by our security team, who direct them to their reserved location. By 05:00 Sunday morning, the Gate opens to allow both reserved and first come tailgate vendors to moving in. With more than 100 tailgaters expected, efficient parking within this first hour is essential - and staffing is critical. If you are one of those critical volunteers, please be on time.

2026 HamFest - Continued on page 16

2026 HamFest - Continued from page 15

Publicity and Outreach

Our event is officially registered with the ARRL as the **Southern New Jersey Section Convention**, providing national visibility. We will also distribute announcements to Clubs across neighboring ARRL districts and email past attendees from the last five years. This broad outreach helps ensure strong attendance and encourages vendor participation.

Your Role as a Club Member

HamFest is not only our largest undertaking - it's a reflection of who we are as a Club. We encourage all members to attend, support operations, and help welcome visitors. Gates open to the public at 07:00. Please wear your Club badge, greet vendors and guests, and share any feedback you receive.

If you wish to volunteer for our HamFest, go to :
https://gloucestercountyarc.weebly.com/2026-hamfest-sign-up-sheet.html

This is your Club, and your presence makes a difference.

Regional (Atlantic & Hudson Divisions) Hamfests & Events

September 12, 2026 : Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, Ham Radio Hamfest, Transit Drive-In, 6655 South Transit Road, Lockport, NY. **www.w2so.org**

September 12, 2026 : Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association, 2026 40th Annual Hamfest, Saratoga County Fairgrounds, 162 Prospect Street, Ballston Spa, NY. **www.k2dll.org**

September 13, 2026 : Butler County Amateur Radio Association, BCARA W3UDX Hamfest, East Butler Volunteer Fire Company, 808 Grant Avenue, East Butler, PA. **www.w3udx.org**

September 13, 2026 : Clearfield County Amateur Radio Club, Central PA Hamfest, Clearfield County Fair Grounds, Community Hall Building, 5615 Park Street, Clearfield, PA. **www.clearfieldcountyarc.net**

September 19, 2026 : Bear Bait Radio Club, Tailgate Fest 2026, Clay Highway Building, 4483 State Road 31, Clay, NY. **www.bearbaitradioclub.com**

September 20, 2026 : Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association, EPARA Hamfest 2026, Moose Lodge 1336, 705 Stokes Mill Road, East Stroudsburg, PA. **www.qsl.net/n3is**

September 20, 2026 : Mount Beacon Amateur Radio Club, Hamfest 2026, Knights Of Columbus Hyde Park Council 6111, 1278 NY-9G, Hyde Park, NY. **www.wr2abb.org**

September 26, 2026 : Amateur Radio Association Of The Southern Tier, 2026 ARAST 51st Hamfest, Chemung County Fairgrounds, Grand Central Avenue, Horseheads, NY. **www.arasth3.org**

September 26, 2026 : Garden State Amateur Radio Association, Garden State ARA Hamfest, MOESC Parking Lot, 100 Tornillo Way, Tinton Falls, NJ. **www.gsara.club**

What's happening in the ARRL Southern New Jersey Section??
Subscribe to the ARRL SNJ Section Groups.IO
https://groups.io/g/ARRLSouthernNewJerseySection

Meteor Shower Transmissions : August 13, 2026

By Mike Resnick N2WOQ

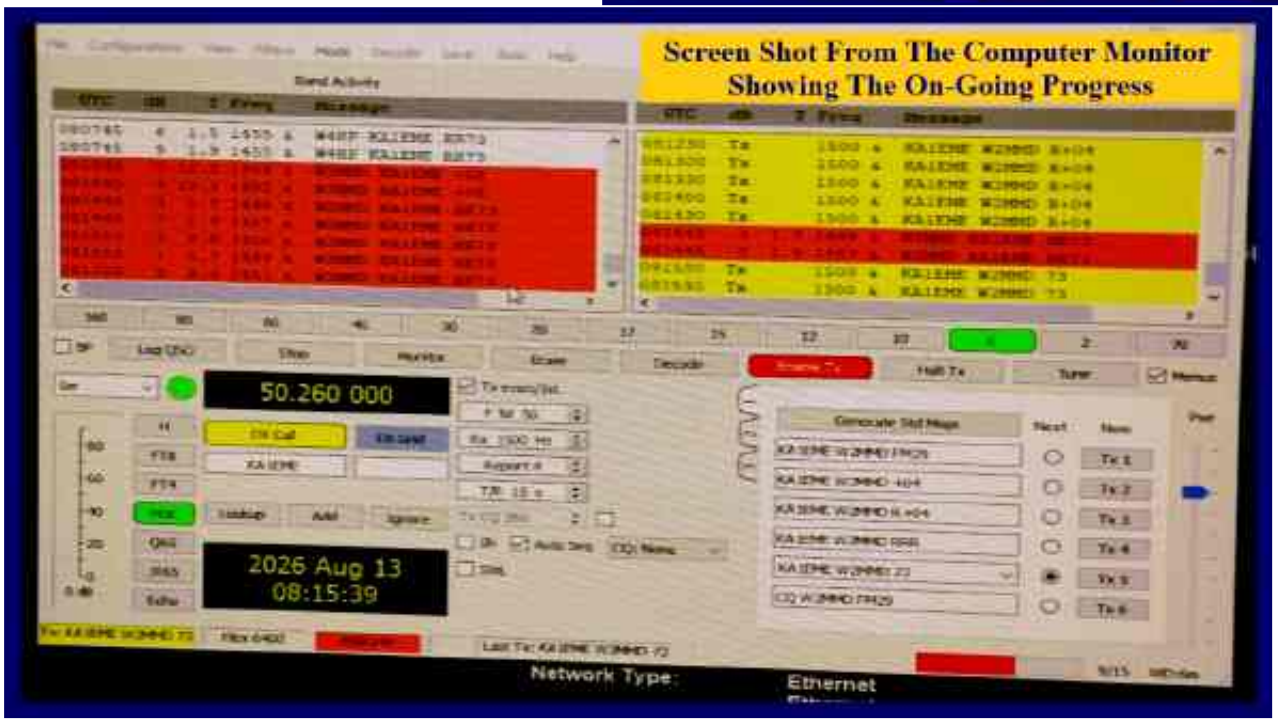
Arriving at the Clubhouse around 3:00 AM Thursday Morning was a new experience for me. No one was there. After turning on the lights and air-conditioner, doubts set in. Am I at the right place at the right time? People started to pull into the lot and knew I got it right.

We had nine people who observed or worked the computer using MSK144. This program sends out a “ping” in just 72 milli-seconds. That’s fast! We made around 20 contacts in the area east of the Mississippi.

Those attending this early morning session were :

- **Al Arrison KB2AYU**
- **Kevin Durrenberger AD2NB**
- **Glen Guenther KE2BUO**
- **Sheldon Parker K2MEN**
- **Jon Pearce WB2MNF**
- **Chris Prioli AD2CS**
- **Mike Resnick N2WOQ**
- **Ed Warren KE2IVT**
- **John Zaruba K2ZA**

For a full illustrated explanation, go to the SkunkWorks website at : https://tinyurl.com/556mvrjv



GCARC Monthly VE Exam Testing Summary - August 2026

By Chris Prioli AD2CS

The August 2026 GCARC VE session was held on Thursday, 13 August. The VE session was held at the W2MMD Clubhouse and was administered by Volunteer Examiners as listed below, with **Chris Prioli AD2CS** serving as Team Liaison for the event :

- **Joe Gadoury N2JJG**
- **John O'Connell K2QA**
- **Gary Reed N2QEE**

There were three candidates as listed below, each of whom sat for their exams as indicated in the following list. The candidates were :

- **Luis Acosta KE2JBN, new General from Westampton, NJ**
- **Diane Amico W2WHD, new Amateur Extra from Vineland, NJ**
- **Vinnie Lomino KD3DRZ, new General from Haddon Township, NJ**

It should be noted that **Luis Acosta** sat for both the Technician Element 2 and the General Element 3 exams, successfully completing both of them. As a result, he is scored as both a Technician and as a General in our team statistics.

While Diane was already a Club member, both Vinnie and Luis opted to join GCARC and were approved for membership at the August Board of Directors Meeting. Congratulations to all on the successful exam efforts.

The VE Team would also like to congratulate **Angela Metzger KE2DRJ** on the successful completion of her Amateur Extra exam while at ARRL headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, and her subsequent elevation to a full-fledged member of the GCARC VE Team.

The VE Team proctored the exam session using only electronic methodologies, in accordance with our current policy.

The next regularly scheduled VE session will be held on Thursday, 10 September 2026, at 1900 Hours at the W2MMD Clubhouse. The VE team will be using the ExamTools system to its fullest capability, within our current technological means.

It is important that all test candidates going forward will be advised, whenever possible, to pre-register and pre-pay for the exam online. Specifics of that process are explained at : **https://veteam.w2mmd.org**

GCARC VE Team Historical Summary

	Technician Class	General Class	Amateur Extra	Total
2016	18	8	6	32
2017	22	19	4	45
2018	29	23	5	57
2019	16	10	8	34
2020 *	8	4	1	13
2021 *	8	5	1	14
2022	22	15	18	55
2023	20	18	10	48
2024	22	12	6	40
2025	24	14	6	44
2026	10	4	4	18
2027				
2028				
2029				
2030				
Totals	199	132	69	400
	* Pandemic	Period		

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club
YouTube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/@W2MMD

Membership Badges Ready For Pick-Up

They can be picked up at the W2MMD Clubhouse or at the monthly General Membership Meetings

Alex Calabrese WA2ADS
Jon Davidson KE2DYD
Robert Erenburg KD3BGJ
Jim Foster W3JNF
Deirdre Anne Hebert AD2GQ
Gary Hewitt N2WHV *
John McGonigle KC3ZJX
Jack Snyder AI2D
Harry Strahlendorf W3DNQ
Marian Yanka KE2GOL

The Clubhouse is open and accessible every Saturday from 0700 until 1600 Hours, and on the third and fourth Wednesday evening of each month as well as the second Thursday evening of each month from about 1700 until 2000 Hours.

The badges can also be picked up at any General Membership Meeting. They will be displayed at the Hospitality Table

If there is an asterisk (*) after your call sign above, your badge is a replacement and has a cost of $5.00 payable to the Club at the time of pickup of the badge.

I have created a page called "Quick Links"

On this page you will find "Buttons" to some the most popular pages
I will add more as time goes on, but I hope this helps your journey navigating through your Club Website!

https://gloucestercountyarc.weebly.com/quick-links.html

ADIF Logs Wanted When Operating As W2MMD @ The Clubhouse

By Jim Wright N2GXJ - Contact me via e-mail on Club Roster List

It is a common courtesy in ham radio to be able to QSL 2-way contacts made with other hams. We're pretty good about doing this for our field day contacts made each year, but are falling behind in this for contacts we make from the Clubhouse as W2MMD.

So here is the ask :

If you operate from the Clubhouse as W2MMD (e.g. on HF, UHF/VHF, or on Satellite, at Tech Saturday, or during contests or other), please email me the electronic log entries in ADIF format from the logger program you used for those contacts?

That way, just like I do following field day each year, I can get them uploaded to LOTW and to eQSL to offer the courtesy of an electronic QSL to those who make contact with us as W2MMD here in NJ.

Thank you

The Education Connection

By Chris Prioli AD2CS - chris@ad2cs.com
www.ad2cs.com

September 2026

As I wrote last month, the time is fast approaching for Session XI of the GCARC Ham Exam Test Preparation Class program. I already have two individuals who have registered for the Element 2 Technician class. I hope to have enough registrants to run all three Elements this time around, but time will tell. The tentative class schedule is as follows. Note that all three classes are scheduled for the exam on the same evening. The ***ExamTools*** electronic testing has made this not only possible, but has made this into the preferred manner of testing.

GCARC Ham Exam Test Preparation Class Program
2026 Session XI - Class Times : 1800 - 2100 Hours
Weeks 1 through 12 + VE Testing : Monday, December 7, 2026

	Element 2 Technician	Element 3 General	Element 4 Amateur Extra
Week 1	Monday, September 14, 2026	Tuesday, September 15, 2026	Friday, September 18, 2026
Week 2	Monday, September 21, 2026	Tuesday, September 22, 2026	Friday, September 25, 2026
Week 3	Monday, September 28, 2026	Tuesday, September 29, 2026	Friday, October 2, 2026
Week 4	Monday, October 5, 2026	Tuesday, October 6, 2026	Friday, October 9, 2026
Week 5	Monday, October 12, 2026	Tuesday, October 13, 2026	Friday, October 16, 2026
Week 6	Monday, October 19, 2026	Tuesday, October 20, 2026	Friday, October 23, 2026
Week 7	Monday, October 26, 2026	Tuesday, October 27, 2026	Friday, October 30, 2026
Week 8	Monday, November 2, 2026	Tuesday, November 3, 2026	Friday, November 6, 2026
Week 9	Monday, November 9, 2026	Tuesday, November 10, 2026	Friday, November 13, 2026
Week 10	Monday, November 16, 2026	Tuesday, November 17, 2026	Friday, November 20, 2026
Week 11	Monday, November 23, 2026	Tuesday, November 24, 2026	Friday, November 27, 2026
Week 12	Monday, November 30, 2026	Tuesday, December 1, 2026	Friday, December 4, 2026
Exam	Monday, December 7, 2026	Monday, December 7, 2026	Monday, December 7, 2026

Registration for these classes is always open through the GCARC Payment and Registration Portal. Specifically, the online registration page can be found at **https://registration.w2mmd.org/wpregp/license-class-registration**. Further information about the classes can be found at : **https://veteam.w2mmd.org/wpve/index.php/gcarc-ham-license-exam-preparation-class-information**

Now is an excellent time to upgrade your license, so as to permit access to a wider range of frequencies, and so as to enable effective operating activity in a wider range of functional modes. For example, getting your General will open up FT8 operation on bands and frequencies not available to the Technician, and upgrading to Amateur Extra will remove those annoying ***"notches"*** in certain bands' frequency allocations.

On another topic… we are currently preparing for an introductory program that will expose new hams to a variety of actual operating conditions and experiences. The plan at this point is to open this up to newly licensed operators, though I would think that some of the experiences would be beneficial to new Generals as well. The sessions would most likely be held at the Clubhouse on Saturday afternoons, and will cover such topics, one at a time on different days, as HF programming and operation, DMR programming/code plug building, HF operation, space communications, antenna design and construction, and so forth

The Education Connection Continued on page 21

The Education Connection Continued from page 20

We are open to suggestions for topics. All suggestions will be considered, though not all may be implemented, depending upon the level of interest among the licensed population.

This will be a great help to new hams in that it will go deeper than any license prep class can go into these topics, but it will not be like trying to drink from a fire hose. The information will be provided at a pace and in a manner that will make it palatable to most if not all who attend.

If you are a newly licensed or upgraded operator with a desire to learn more about some basic issue with which you have little or no knowledge, this is for you. Think it over, and then let me know if you are interested in participating. There will most likely be different facilitators, based upon the topic to be covered on any given day. Also, the sessions can be attended in any order - there will be no hard prerequisites as far as the sequence of sessions is concerned, though there may be a suggestion that certain sessions may be best suited to those with a given level of exiting knowledge. We will do our best to make this program beneficial to all who participate.

See You Next Month!

W2MMD.ORG

FACEBOOK.COM/W2MMD

"Dinner @ The W2MMD Clubhouse"

Wednesday, August 26, 2026 @ 1800 Hours

Need a ride to a Club meeting, event, or activity?

Just send a message to the Club's e-mail reflector asking if a member can pick you up

GCARC <*at*> MAILMAN <*dot*> QTH <*dot*> NET

All Club members have access to this FREE e-mail service

The Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club CrossTalk Magazines from 1959 to the present are on the Internet Archives website : https://archive.org/details/gcarc-crosstalk

You can search the CrossTalk Newsletter Archive By Selecting "Search Text Contents", enter the data in the Search box & click "Search this collection"

Tuesday AfterNoon Net @ 1200 Hours

147.180 MHz (+) (131.8) Repeater & EchoLink W2MMD-R

Here is the schedule for the upcoming weeks

Greg Ciraula K3GC : September 1, 2026
Mary Delemarre W2TDS : September 8, 2026
Steve Farney W2SEF : September 15, 2026
Jeff Garth WB2ZBN : September 22, 2026
Steve Farney W2SEF : September 29, 2026

Greg Ciraula K3GC : October 6, 2026
Mary Delemarre W2TDS : October 13, 2026
Steve Farney W2SEF : October 20, 2026
Jeff Garth WB2ZBN : October 27, 2026

Greg Ciraula K3GC : November 3, 2026
Mary Delemarre W2TDS : November 10, 2026
Steve Farney W2SEF : November 17, 2026
Jeff Garth WB2ZBN : November 24, 2026

Greg Ciraula K3GC : December 1, 2026
Mary Delemarre W2TDS : December 8, 2026
Steve Farney W2SEF : December 15, 2026
Jeff Garth WB2ZBN : December 22, 2026
Steve Farney W2SEF : December 29, 2026

If you would like to be a Net Control Station for this net, please contact Steve Farney W2SEF

Thursday Night Rag Chew Net @ 2000 Hours

147.180 MHz (+) (131.8) Repeater & EchoLink W2MMD-R

Here is the schedule for the upcoming weeks

Jeff Garth WB2ZBN : September 3, 2026
Mary Delemarre W2TDS : September 10, 2026
Gary Mirkin WA3SVW : September 17, 2026
Steve Farney W2SEF : September 24, 2026

Jeff Garth WB2ZBN : October 1, 2026
Mary Delemarre W2TDS : October 8, 2026
Gary Mirkin WA3SVW : October 15, 2026
Steve Farney W2SEF : October 22, 2026
Jeff Garth WB2ZBN : October 29, 2026

Jeff Garth WB2ZBN : November 5, 2026
Mary Delemarre W2TDS : November 12, 2026
Gary Mirkin WA3SVW : November 19, 2026
Happy Thanksgiving : November 26, 2026

Jeff Garth WB2ZBN : December 3, 2026
Mary Delemarre W2TDS : December 10, 2026
Gary Mirkin WA3SVW : December 17, 2026
Christmas Eve : December 24, 2026
New Year's Eve : December 31, 2026

If you would like to be a Net Control Station for this net, please contact Jeff Garth WB2ZBN

Gloucester County Skywarn Net

The Gloucester County Skywarn Net is held every Sunday @ 1930 Hours on the 147.180 MHz (+) (131.8) Repeater & EchoLink W2MMD-R

All Are Welcome To Participate
Net Control Station : Jeff Garth WB2ZBN

Gloucester County ARES Net

The Gloucester County ARES Net is held every Sunday @ 2000 Hours on the 147.180 MHz (+) (131.8) Repeater & EchoLink W2MMD-R

All are welcome to participate

Net Control Stations :
Al Arrison KB2AYU; Steve Farney W2SEF; Jeff Garth WB2ZBN;
Angela Metzger KE2DRJ; Craig Metzger KE2GNU; Gary Mirkin WA3SVW; Court Smith KD2SPJ

Gary Mirkin WA3SVW : September 1, 2026
Al Arrison KB2AYU : September 13, 2026
Jeff Garth WB2ZBN : September 20, 2026
Court Smith KD2SPJ : September 27, 2026

Craig Metzger KE2GNU : October 4, 2026
Angela Metzger KE2DRJ : October 11, 2026
Steve Farney W2SEF : October 18, 2026
Gary Mirkin WA3SVW : October 25, 2026

Al Arrison KB2AYU : November 1, 2026
Jeff Garth WB2ZBN : November 8, 2026
Court Smith KD2SPJ : November 15, 2026
Craig Metzger KE2GNU : November 22, 2026
Angela Metzger KE2DRJ : November 29, 2026

Steve Farney W2SEF : December 6, 2026
Gary Mirkin WA3SVW : December 13, 2026
Al Arrison KB2AYU : December 20, 2026
Jeff Garth WB2ZBN : December 27, 2026

Anyone who is interested in joining the Gloucester County ARES Team, is invited to contact Steve Farney W2SEF at sef001@comcast.net

Monday & Thursday Night 40 Meter Net @ 1930 Hours

7.172 MHz (+ /- 10 kHz)

NCS : Jim Clark KA2OSV

ARRL Learning Center
https://learn.arrl.org

Discover how to make Amateur Radio your own.

Online courses from the ARRL Learning Center provide ARRL members with additional instruction and training for getting on the air, emergency communications, and electronics and technology

At The Repair Bench…

A monthly column describing a recent repair bench event.

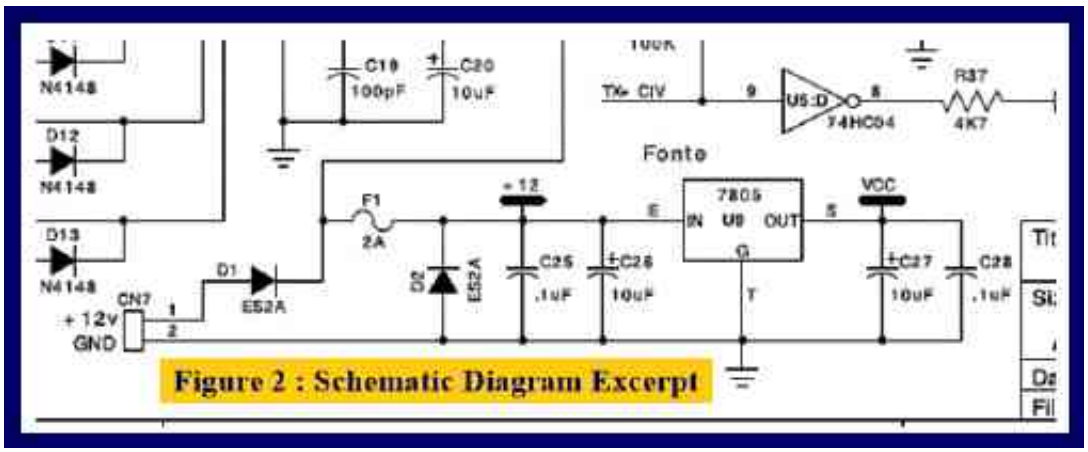
By Chris Prioli AD2CS - chris@ad2cs.com - www.ad2cs.com

Hamplus MBD-8E Smart Antenna Switch Control - September 2026

One of our fellow GCARC members brought his **Hamplus MBD8E Smart Antenna Switch Control (Figure 1)** to me for repair, asking only that I replace the blown fuse. The factory-installed fuse is a two-ampere fast-blow size 1206 SMD fuse. I suggested replacing the single-use fuse with a self-resetting type, and the customer agreed. There was a method to my madness in making such a suggestion. You see, at that point we had no idea whatsoever what had caused the fuse to blow in the first place. I figured that by using a self-resetting fuse device, I would stand a better chance of determining the cause without the need to repeatedly replace a soldered-in surface-mount fuse.

When I opened up the unit, I quickly found several problems with the unit. Working without a schematic, as I had none for this unit at that point, I began to track down the problems.

This unit operates on a nominal 14VDC, meaning that it should operate properly from a standard 13.8V ham bench power supply. Coming in from the power inlet jack, the current flows through a pair of diodes and then into the fuse. From the fuse, the flow is to an LM7805 voltage regulator IC with a 100µF/25V aluminum electrolytic capacitor connected at the input to the voltage regulator. The output of the voltage regulator supplies the 5VDC supply to the rest of the board, and there is a 4700µF/25V aluminum electrolytic capacitor connected between the voltage regulator output and ground. These components cannot really be seen in the schematic excerpt at **Figure 2**, with the schematic having been obtained after the repairs were completed (more about that later). They cannot be seen because there is a difference between the schematic and the actual device as regards this portion of the circuit. The schematic shows a pair of capacitors at the voltage regulator input and another pair at the voltage regulator output.



At The Repair Bench - Continued on page 25

At The Repair Bench - Continued from page 24

In the schematic, we see capacitors C25 and C26 at the voltage regulator input side. While C25, at 0.1µF is probably a valid value and does exist on the actual PCB, the value of C26 shown is 10µF, while the actual installed value here is 100µF. Similarly, we see those same two values of 0.1µF and 10µF at the v/reg output, but in reality, only a single 4700µF capacitor is installed at this location. These differences point out the types of running changes that are often made as a product matures in the wild.

Let's look at the 4700µF capacitor, as an example. The most likely reason that such a large value capacitor is installed here is to help to supply the current demanded by the switching appliances (which are external to this unit). This capacitor will charge to a certain level, and in so doing, it will store considerable current in its plates. In turn, when the downstream current demand is greater than the incoming source can supply, the capacitor can discharge some of its stored current into the circuit to meet that current demand. This is a ***much*** greater value capacitor than would ever normally be used at the output of a voltage regulator IC.

Further, a look at the related area of the PCB in **Figure 3** shows that the apparent original intent was for capacitor C27 to be a smaller capacitor that would be installed to the component side of the PCB rather than hanging off the edge of the board. It is also apparent that although C25 and C26 are both marked on the board, while C27 is marked, C28 is not. This would seem to indicate that there were interim design versions of this unit.

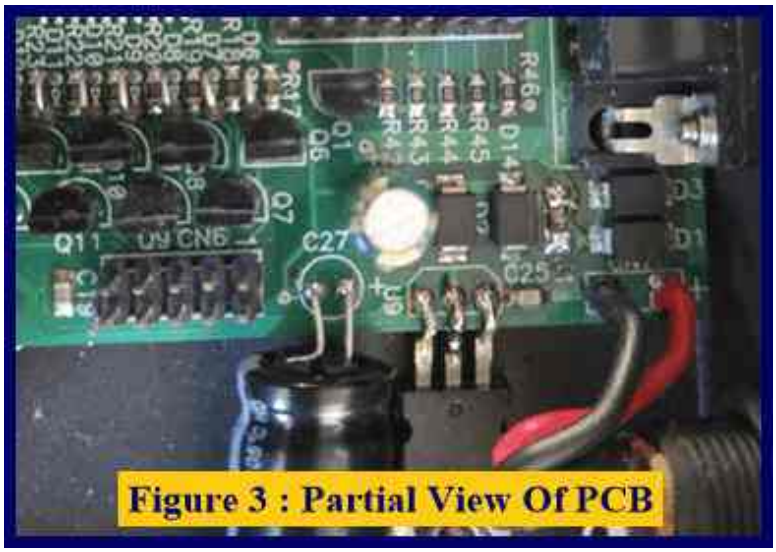


Figure 3 : Partial View Of PCB

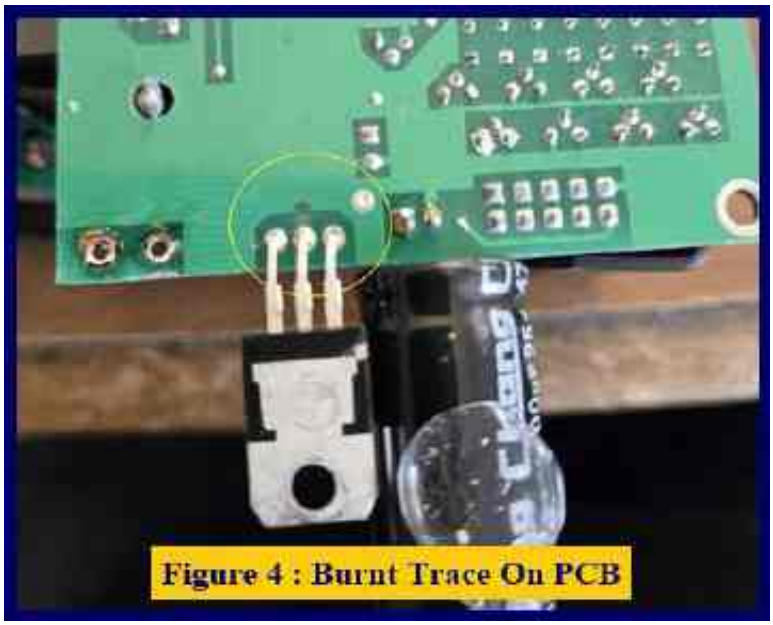


Figure 4 : Burnt Trace On PCB

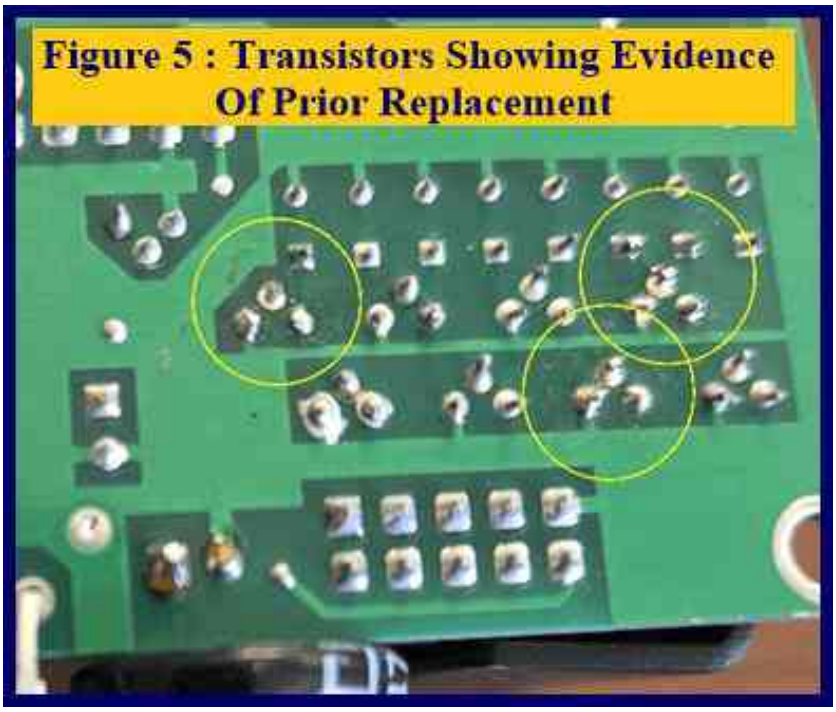
After removal of the CPU board from the unit enclosure, the first thing that I noticed was a burned area in the paint on the inside of the enclosure floor, directly underneath the location of the voltage regulator pins on the printed circuit board (PCB). The IC itself extended off the edge of the PCB and was secured to the enclosure floor via a machine screw and nut at the tab of the TO-220 voltage regulator package.

A close look at the voltage regulator pins on the PCB showed that the trace from the center (ground) pin to the ground plane on the PCB had been burned away **(Figure 4).** Now… one might think that the voltage regulator IC would have been sufficiently grounded through its tab being fastened to the enclosure, but in reality, the enclosure itself is not at ground potential and the only real benefit to securing the voltage regulator IC to the enclosure floor is that it provides plenty of cooling for that IC.

Removal of the LM7805 voltage regulator IC from the circuit and basic resistance testing with an ohmmeter showed that the IC had failed. I began then to look more deeply for a cause of voltage regulator IC failure. I began by making a resistance measurement from the voltage regulator output pad on the PCB to the PCB ground plane. With that measurement, I found that there was a direct short circuit to ground. Going after the low-hanging fruit, so to speak, I desoldered the 4700µF/25V electrolytic capacitor from the PCB, and retested the resistance. This time, it measured about 6.5MΩ.

At The Repair Bench - Continued on page 26

At The Repair Bench - Continued from page 25



A test of the removed capacitor with my capacitor leakage tester showed that it was indeed shorted and therefore merited replacement. I decided to remove and test the remaining electrolytic capacitors on the CPU PCB. That included the 100µF/25V capacitor at the voltage regulator input and the two 10µF/25V capacitors at other locations on the PCB. Of these, the 100µF type showed excessive current leakage, while the two 10µF types were intact. However, due to the fact that they were all presumably of the same age, I opted to replace all four electrolytic capacitors.

While examining the foil side of the CPU PCB, I noted that three of the BC517 transistors used as the antenna circuit switches had evidently been replaced at some point in time **(Figure 5).** This was indicated by the appearance of the solder joints for those transistors. I filed that information away in my mind, and proceeded to finish the assembly of the unit.

With the damage that had occurred to the PCB at the voltage regulator IC ground trace, the board of course needed some repair work. I accomplished this by scraping away some of the solder mask off the ground plane in the vicinity of the voltage regulator IC. I then fashioned and installed a wire loop with a tail, soldering the tail to the PCB in such a manner that it held the loop directly in line with the center pin position for the voltage regulator IC. However, I raised the loop up over the PCB surface by about a thirty-second of an inch so as to prevent short circuits between the IC pins.

I installed the new LM7805 voltage regulator IC at its proper location, except that I repositioned it so that its pins came into their PCB holes from above the board rather than from underneath the board as it was originally installed. This was done to take best advantage of the board repair that I had made. After the IC was installed, I applied some conformal coating to the PCB over the repaired area.

With the new electrolytic capacitors and the new voltage regulator IC installed, I next installed the self-resetting fuse in place of the original single-use fuse. I then applied power and tested the board operation. At first, it seemed to operate properly, but after about fifteen seconds, the power went out as the fuse tripped. Apparently, I still had some detective work to do.

I began the next phase of the diagnosis by isolating the CPU PCB from the second board in the unit to verify that the cause of the tripped fuse was on the CPU board, which it was. Next, I began taking operating voltage measurements for each of the thirteen transistors used on the CPU PCB. It did not take very long to determine that five of the thirteen transistors had failed! Three of the failed transistors were in the bank of eight BC517 NPN Darlington devices that are used as the basic switches for the antenna circuits. The other failures included one each of the BC327 PNP and BC547 NPN general-purpose transistors used in the various control locations in the unit. Needless to say, I replaced the failed transistors… and then I decided to also replace all of the transistors, failed or not, as a preventive measure. This was spurred by the fact that among the non-failed transistors, there was a wide range of hFE values reported during operational testing of the transistors. For example, when testing the BC517 types, I saw hFE values as low as 16 and as high as 248. Similar results were reported when testing the BC327 and BC547 transistors, though here I was comparing the results more to datasheet values than to the other transistors as I had with the BC517's.

At The Repair Bench - Continued on page 27

At The Repair Bench - Continued from page 26

Moving on, with all of the new transistors installed, I once again applied power to the board, and once again, the fuse tripped out after about twenty seconds. The left me digging for more clues as to where the problem was hiding.

This CPU PCB uses a total of sixteen diodes, four of which are of the two-ampere surface-mount ES2A type, and the remainder being 1N4148 through-hole devices. All of these tested OK. There are many resistors and ceramic capacitors, all surface-mount, and every one of them tested OK. Finally, there are eight additional integrated circuits (IC's) beyond the voltage-regulator IC that we already discussed. All eight of these other IC's are surface mount devices.

Unfortunately, the only sure method of eliminating any one of these devices as the cause of the tripped fuse is to remove the device from the PCB, and then to apply power to the PCB and see if the fuse trips. As it turned out, the causal IC in this case was the most difficult to replace.

When I speak of difficulty, I am not referring to the actual act of removing and installing the IC. That is a pretty straight-forward task accomplished with some hot air for removal, and a fine soldering iron and thin solder for installation. No… the difficulty lies in the fact that the problem IC was the microcontroller, a type of chip called a PSoC (Programmable System on Chip) device. Of course, as luck would have it, the one chip with proprietary programming installed is the one that needed to be replaced.

Figure 6 : PCB Ready For New IC

The chip itself is readily available at either ***Mouser*** or ***Digikey***. It is a 28-pin SOIC type of chip, requiring fine soldering work to install properly, but the physical installation is only half of the process. Once the chip has been soldered in place, it must be programmed.

For this, I reached out to a firm in Texas that is the USA service representative for Hamplus, a Brazilian company. The principal at that Texas firm is a true gentleman by the name of ***Eduardo Cunha***, who was extremely helpful to me. Eduardo provided me with the proprietary firmware file for programming into the chip. Now all that I needed was an appropriate programming tool. This tool turned out to be a MiniProg3 programmer, a tool that is made available (at substantial cost) by the chip manufacturer. I ordered in the chip and the programmer kit, and then waited for them to arrive.

Three business days later, I had the chips (I had ordered two of them) and the programmer kit. Soldering the chip into place on the PCB was no problem. The chip is a 28-pin SOIC type of SMT device, so to solder it into place was quite easy. I used my FNIRSI 100W iron with a knife tip, and the solder that I used was the 0.012" (0.3mm) rosin core solder about which I have written before.

My technique involves a thorough cleaning of the board and pads, followed by a light application of solder to the four corner pads for the chip **(Figure 6).** Then, I placed the chip on its proper footprint on the PCB, aligning the four corner pins with their assigned pre-tinned pads. While applying light downward pressure on the chip, I heated each of those corner leads in turn to cause the solder on the pads to reflow and then to bond the chip in place. I then went down each line of pins, soldering them as I go along.

At The Repair Bench - Continued on page 28

At The Repair Bench - Continued from page 27

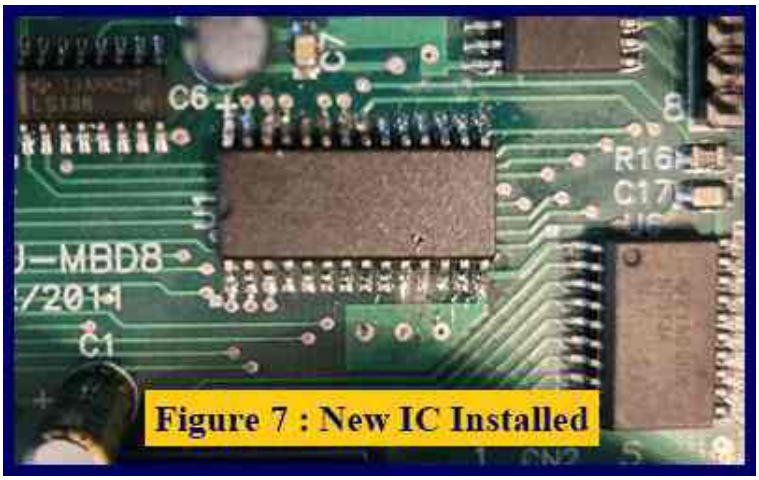


Figure 7 : New IC Installed

Finally, I went back to the corner pins and apply the proper amount of solder there to provide a proper solder joint at each corner. It is a quick and easy way to install these high pin count SOIC chips **(Figure 7)**.

The programming was not quite so smooth and simple. Never having installed or programmed one of these Cypress chips before, I was not familiar with their procedures and software. It seems that the software that is called for by the Quick Start Guide for the programmer kit that I purchased ***does not actually support the programmer, nor does it support the chip family of which the CY8C29466-24SXI is a member!***

It took a great deal of frustration and detective work to determine that I would need to use a legacy programming software with the programmer kit that I purchased, and then I would need to install an ***"unconfigured"*** device driver for the actual programmer in order to get the software to communicate properly with the programmer. ***Friendly warning : nothing is simple in the Infineon/Cypress world when it comes to hardware, software, or the documentation for either one of those.***

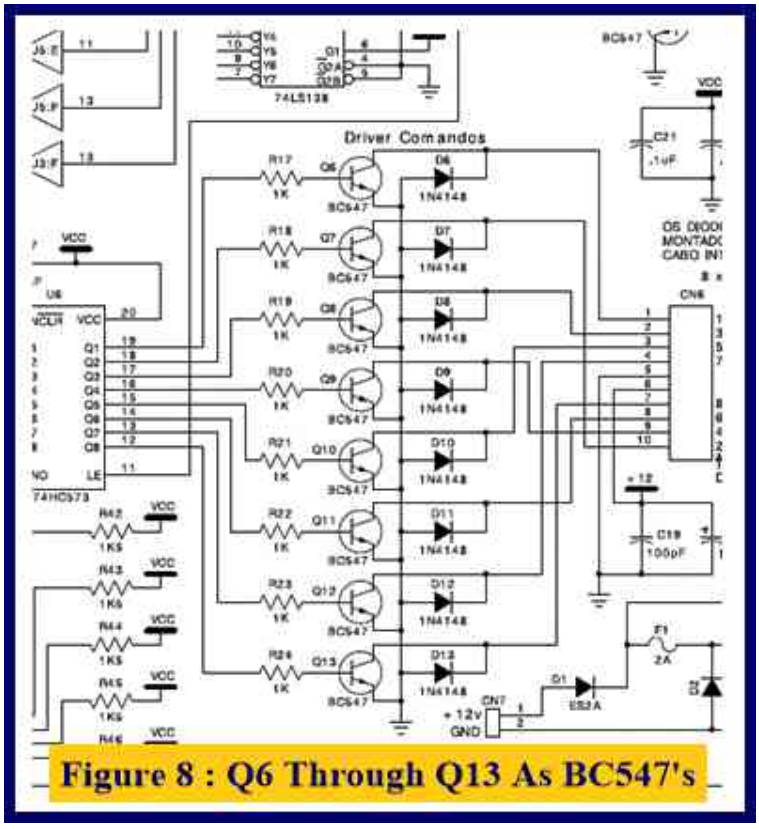


Figure 8 : Q6 Through Q13 As BC547's

Suffice it to say that I eventually figured out how to get the programming software to talk to the programmer, and then to get that combination to work with the target chip. It turns out that the chip must be externally powered for programming with this programmer, and that the programmer must be placed in its ***"reset chip"*** mode in order for it all to work, none of which is clearly explained anywhere that I could find in the Cypress documentation.

Ultimately, I got the chip programmed using the ***hex*** file that Eduardo had generously sent to me, and when the unit was tested afterwards, it worked flawlessly. Success! I went ahead and reassembled the rest of the unit and set it aside for pickup by its owner.

The story is not yet complete, however. Almost as an afterthought, I dropped another email to Eduardo and asked him if it was possible to obtain a copy of the unit schematic diagram, which after a short delay, he provided to me. I decided to see how the unit that I repaired matched up to the schematic, and what I found was a bit of a surprise.

The bank of eight BC517 Darlington pair transistors that do the main antenna selection switching are indicated on the schematic **(Figure 8)** to be the less-capable BC547 NPN Silicon general-purpose transistors. While both the BC547 and the BC517 are rated at 625mW total power dissipation, the BC517 is rated for a full ampere of current, while the BC547 is rated for only 100mA, or one-tenth of the current that the Darlington transistor can handle. This is an important point, because as I said earlier, there was evidence of some of the BC517's having failed previously, and I had found several of them failed when I started this job. It is my bet that even at one ampere, the BC517's are not right for the task that they are being called upon to perform, and that the earlier design level that used the BC547's there must have had numerous repetitive failures due to current flow through these transistors.

At The Repair Bench - Continued on page 29

At The Repair Bench - Continued from page 28

The BC517 would appear to be a compromise ***"drop-in"*** solution that could be implemented with no other circuit design changes being necessary. Unfortunately, it would appear that this solution really does not go far enough.

It is my belief that this unit will continue to have problems in use, as its design does not appear to be robust enough to handle the current levels required to do the job that this device is designed to do. In my opinion, the switching transistors used should have been higher-current devices in the TO-220 package. Substituting the BC517 devices for the BC547 originals provided the power advantage of the Darlington pair transistors there, but it really is not enough to solve the problem completely. The advantage is that they fit directly in place of the original BC547 transistors. Sometimes the manufacturer just gets it wrong… and this is one of those times.

See You Next Month!

Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station

By Jerry Barnish K2EAB

As President of Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station or otherwise known as BNJARS, I would like to invite members of GCARC to think about contributing to the organization. We are an ARRL affiliate.

BNJARS was formed about 26 years ago by local amateurs. Our mission is supporting the Battleship as a museum. We maintain electronics and sponsor educational efforts such as the Scouts with on the air contacts and licensing help. Operation and demonstration of Amateur radio to the public is part of our efforts. We maintain several areas depicting equipment used by the Navy during several deployments including WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm. On display are equipment designed and built by RCA. Museum Ships Weekend is an event sponsored by BNJARS and is administered by a very dedicated Amateur. This runs for 48 hours each June and remains popular with 100 + ships participating. Submitting logs with evidence of 15 or more ships results with a certificate for paper chasers.

This month exciting news was announced by the Alliance that funding for a new visitors center was granted. A three story building will be erected on site. This will include a revamped ship's store. A parking garage at Wiggins Park Marina is planned. Monies for needed maintenance of the ship will be funded.

To allay some fears of helping another organization due to time constraints, membership requires four hours per quarter to maintain active status. There are no dues. Saturday is our normal work day commencing around 0800 hours and lasting to and including 1600 hours, closing time of the museum. Our Chief Engineer, an active amateur and former Navy vet will take you in charge for orientation and possible work assignments. No electronic experience is needed. If you don't have a call, come also. If you desire membership, you apply and an ID badge would be issued after a background check by the Alliance is approved. This edifice is a wonderful exhibit and should be maintained for the enjoyment by the public and to honor all who have served.

Please contact me via email if you wish to visit. Four to five people on a Saturday will be escorted aboard ship. Stop at the security gate at Clinton Street and tell the guard you are a guest of BNJARS. A member will meet you at the second security gate. Operating and maintaining is all part of the goals of our group.

Thank you for considering!

NTS Resources

The National Traffic System® (NTS) is a network of Amateur Radio operators who move information during disasters and other emergencies. General messages offering well wishes also move through the NTS to help test the system and to help Amateur Radio operators build traffic handling skills. While the NTS is primarily set up to serve the United States and Canada, it is possible to move traffic internationally through the NTS through various local, regional, area, and international network connections.

- **NTS 2.0 : https://nts2.arrl.org**
- **NTS Manual : https://www.arrl.org/nts-manual**
- **NTS Methods and Practices Guidelines Table of Contents : https://www.arrl.org/table-of-contents-nts-methods-and-practices-guidelines**
- **Handling Instructions : https://nts2.arrl.org/hx-handling-instructions**
- **Numbered Texts : https://nts2.arrl.org/numbered-texts**
- **Form Encoding Rules for Form : https://nts2.arrl.org/form-encoding-rules-for-forms**

A *Club* that goes *above* and *beyond* for their communities and for Amateur Radio, is what defines a *Special Service Club (SSC).*

They are the leaders in their Amateur Radio communities who provide active training classes, publicity programs, and actively pursue technical projects and operating activities.

GCARC has been an ARRL Affiliated Club since February 4, 1960 and an SSC since April 2010.

GCARC VE Team : 2026 License Exam Monthly Summary						
	Technician Class		General Class		Amateur Extra Class	
	Monthly	YTD	Monthly	YTD	Monthly	YTD
January	1	1	0	0	0	0
February	0	1	0	0	0	0
March	1	2	0	0	1	1
April	2	4	0	0	0	1
May	1	5	1	1	1	2
June	2	7	0	1	1	3
July	1	8	2	3	0	3
August	2	10	1	4	1	4
September						
October						
November						
December						

Club Member DMR IDs

Updated As Of 08/20/2026

Club Member	DMR ID
W2MMD Clubhouse	3198604
Michael Beach KF2EM	3222203
Jim Blose KD2TAT	3211628
Cole Bonner KE2GYA	3221097
Joshua Boylan KE2FSC	3216140
Alex Calabrese WA2ADS	3100583
Chuck Capasso WB2PGE	3169781
Todd Cecilio KA2YNT	3169458
Anthony Cerami N2OAC	3202759
Mark Clark N3QMJ	3102110
Norm Coltri K2NRC	3183851
Holden Correia-Fisher KD2JPV	3104911
Mike Covaleski N2MMC	3134855
Walter Coward WX2E	3166863
Doug Dersch KD2VQA	3193630
Daniel Devlin KC2GYU	3210633
Carmen DiCamillo KA3WYV	3221262
Thomas Distelcamp Sr KC2GYC	3110869
Glenn Dougherty N2YIO	3161836
Adam Duncan W3DUN	3202691
Herb Dyer KT2Y	3134907
Harry Elwell AD5TT	3128498
Bob Famiglio K3RF	3105945
Misael Fernandez Jr KE2EBL	3214756
Joseph Fisher KC2TN	3134720
James Foster W3JNF	3142117
Karl Frank W2KBF	3146716
Joseph Gadoury N2JJG (KE2AKT)	3196520
Glen Guenther KE2BUO	3202079
Melissa Guenther KE2BWZ	3202496
Gary Hewitt N2WHV	3134654
Paul Kaplan N2FOB	3134796
Chuck Lanard KD2EIB	3134298
Virginia Macrie KA2ZZA	3219039
Darren Malone KD2ALQ	3215227
Larry Mapow KX2M	3226460
Dean Marzocca N2TNN	3206232
Bill McCourt WF1L	3152173
Scott McNutt N3ADP	3189434

Club Member	DMR ID
Gary Mirkin WA3SVW	3165494
Paul Molinari N2MVK	3221792
Earl Moore KC2NCH	3210340
John Murrow KD2NHK	1134122
John Newman WB4YLM	3213273
Phil Nunzio WA3RGY	3134336
John O'Connell K2QA	3110610
Robert Pantazes W2ARP	3157208
Sheldon Parker K2MEN	3214037
Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF	3163415
Michael Pecorini K2MRP	3132996
Michael Pentimall KC3VTF	3203601
John Price III KD2QYC	3123583
Chris Prioli AD2CS	3195449
Nicholas Reigel KE2DCD	3128983
Michael Resnick N2WOQ	3215856
William Robinson KD2ANM	3134257
Frank Romeo N3PUU	3134935
Terry Rossi N2LQH	3183681
Len Rust III W2LJR	3186225
Len Rust IV K2LJR	3196243
Dave Sheppard W2PAX	3112666
Cory Sickles WA3UVV	1142052
James Simeone KC2AOF	3134848
Stan Slachetka WA2JRZ	3213904
Court Smith KD2SPJ	3186243
Jackson Snyder AI2D	3164371
Russell Stevenson KE2HVQ	3223941
David Swartout KC3TGB	3198155
Rabih Tannous W2VO	3224566
Anthony Vece W2AJV	3214797
Tyler Wall KO4UUT	3186537
Matt Wilson K2MFW	3134607
Bill Wood KD2OSJ	3197459
Jim Wright N2GXJ	3215168
Kyle Yankanich K3YLE	3224775
John Zaruba Jr K2ZA	3134331

DMR Configuration Sequence

1. Obtain and Configure DMR ID :
   - https://www.radioid.net
2. Download Contact List :
   - http://www.dmrcontacts.com
3. Identify Repeater or Hotspot :
   - https://www.repeaterbook.com
4. Define Talk Groups
   - Numerical ID
   - Text Name

https://brandmeister.network/?page=talkgroups

5. Create Channel
   - Select Number
   - Assign Name
   - Select DMR ID
   - Assign Frequency
     - Transmit
     - Receive
     - Bandwidth
   - Power
   - DMR Mode (Simplex/Repeater)
   - TX Permit (Channel Free)
   - Assign Talk Group
   - Assign Color Code
     - Agreed Upon with Other Users
   - Assign Time Slot
   - Agreed Upon with Other Users
6. Create Zone
7. Add Channels to Zones
8. Configure Features
9. Upload Code Plug
10. Upload Contact List

If you recently changed your callsign, contact idteam@dmr-marc.net to have your DMR ID transferred to your new callsign.

For more information, DMR links, and W2LJR's DMR presentations, go to : https://gloucestercountyarc.weebly.com/dmr.html

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club Elmers

We are always looking for some Club Elmers. If you would to add your name to the Elmer's List, send your specialty to w2mmdgcarc@gmail.com. Here is what we have so far :

- Tony Starr K3TS : Antenna Construction; Contesting; CW Help and Training
- Ken Bozarth KN2U : Antennas
- Karl Frank W2KBF : Digital Messaging (FLDIGI, WinLink)
- Lenny Rust W2LJR : DMR Radios & Programming; VOIP; POTA; 3-D Printing
- Ron Block NR2B : Lightning Protection & Grounding
- Chris Prioli AD2CS : Kit Building; Antenna Building; Radio Programming; PC and Electronic Troubleshooting; Ham Radio Licensing & Studying; Local & Remote W2MMD HF Station Operation; Training & Support
- John Zaruba Jr K2ZA : Yaesu System Fusion Radio Programming; POTA; SOTA; CW Learning & Operating; 3-D Printing
- Jerry Barnish K2EAB : Radio Astronomy
- Mike Thompson KG4JYA : Radio Astronomy; VARA (HF and FM); WinLink
- Steve Farney W2SEF : WSJT-X; FT-8; LoTW; TQSL; Grid Square
- Gary Mirkin WA3SVW : FLDIGI; MMSSTV
- Jon Pearce WB2MNF : Satellite Communications; DMR; GD77; WPSD
- Frank Romeo N3PUU : Construction; Plumbing; Electrical; Fabrication; Jack-Of-All Trades
- Dave Sheppard W2PAX : National Traffic System
- Bob Pantazes W2ARP : How To Properly Manage QSL Cards

Gloucester County ARES News : September 2026

By Steven Farney W2SEF - sef001@comcast.net
Gloucester County Emergency Coordinator

Hi Folks.

On Saturday, August 15, 2026, Gloucester County ARES and the Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club leadership had a 2-hour brainstorming session on how to improve Emergency Communications for both organizations. Many topics were discussed including what is currently working and not working.

We agreed as a group to a follow-up session tentatively for the middle of September 2026. Watch for action plans as we vet through the suggestions and understand what is required to accomplish our goals of improving Emergency Communications.

Watch for the **S**imulated **E**mergency **T**raining **(SET)** tentatively scheduled for October 3-4, 2026

73 for now, Steve W2SEF GCEC

The Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club Volunteer Examiner Team Website. Everything you need to know about getting your ham license or upgrading your license can be found on this website. Pass It Around!

https://veteam.w2mmd.org

ARES Resources (Updated as of January 2026)

ARRL ARES Registration Form July 2004: https://bit.ly/3Ae2pCf
ARES Manual March 2015 [PDF] : https://bit.ly/3iUhJLQ
ARES Field Resources Manual August 2019 [PDF] : https://bit.ly/4qDmOWb
ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book July 2024 Ver. 3.0 [Fillable PDF] : https://bit.ly/4dToEes
ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book July 2024 [Word] : https://bit.ly/4heLXSU
ARRL ARES Plan July 2025 : https://bit.ly/4pOZwwl
ARRL Emergency Communications Training : http://bit.ly/3J2gMMf
FEMA 2023 National Preparedness Report : https://bit.ly/3YrPWnY
Southern New Jersey Section Emergency Operations Plan 2023.PDF : https://bit.ly/3YqMdHb
ARRL ARES Monthly Newsletters : https://bit.ly/408OV5d

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES. Please inquire at the local level for specific information. Because ARES is an amateur radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable but is not a requirement for membership.

If you are interested in learning more about the Gloucester County ARES Program or becoming an ARES member, please contact Steve Farney W2SEF at sef001@comcast.net.

The Historic Hancock House Gets "Activated" By GCARC

By Stan Slachetka WA2JRZ

"CQ POTA CQ POTA CQ Parks on the Air from W2MMD located at US-13255, the Hancock House State Historic Site in Hancock's Bridge, New Jersey."

On Saturday, August 1, 2026, this was the call that rang out on CW, FT-8, and SSB from eight different stations operated by members of the Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club. The Club's POTA activation of the Hancock House was part of our recognition of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America and the important role of New Jersey in the American Revolution.

Kudos to everyone who brought their equipment and set up stations. It was impressive to see our individual and combined POTA capabilities, as well as the variety of gear and antennas that we deployed. What was just as impressive was the way Club members cooperated with each other in selecting the bands and modes that we operated and how everyone helped each other throughout the day.

Everyone was generous with their time, sharing their knowledge and experience with Club members - even those with no prior POTA experience - and allowing others to operate or log during the event. While operating was fun, it was just as much fun to talk radio (and other stuff) and learn a few new tips and tricks for future POTA activations.

Members who attended also had the opportunity to learn about the historic Hancock House and the important battle that took place at the site during the Revolution. **Pete Michel** of the **New Jersey State Parks, Forests and Historic Sites** staff, along with his wife and son, donned Revolutionary War period costumes and gave tours of the house, discussed its history, and gave demonstrations highlighting how people lived during that period. We learned a lot and got a better appreciation of the role that South Jersey played in the Revolution.

Pete, his family, and staff were gracious and welcoming hosts throughout the event, which was very much appreciated by everyone from GCARC who attended.

Before leaving, **John Zaruba** and I spoke with Pete. He was very impressed with our effort and appreciated how courteous and considerate we were throughout the day, especially in how we cleaned up after ourselves and made efforts to protect the historic character of the site. Collectively, we put on a good showing and made this an interesting and fun event for everyone, including the Hancock House staff.

Finally, and probably most important, the weather was favorable throughout the day (no rain!) and everyone had a great time.

Next up is the Historic Soldiers Weekend at Fort Mott on September 26 and 27. It will be a different type of experience with the Club doing both a POTA activation and operating as special event station W2M. It also will be a two-day event with a lot more interaction with the public. (See the accompanying graphic for more details.)

Hancock House Activation - Continued on page 35

Hancock House Activation - Continued from page 34

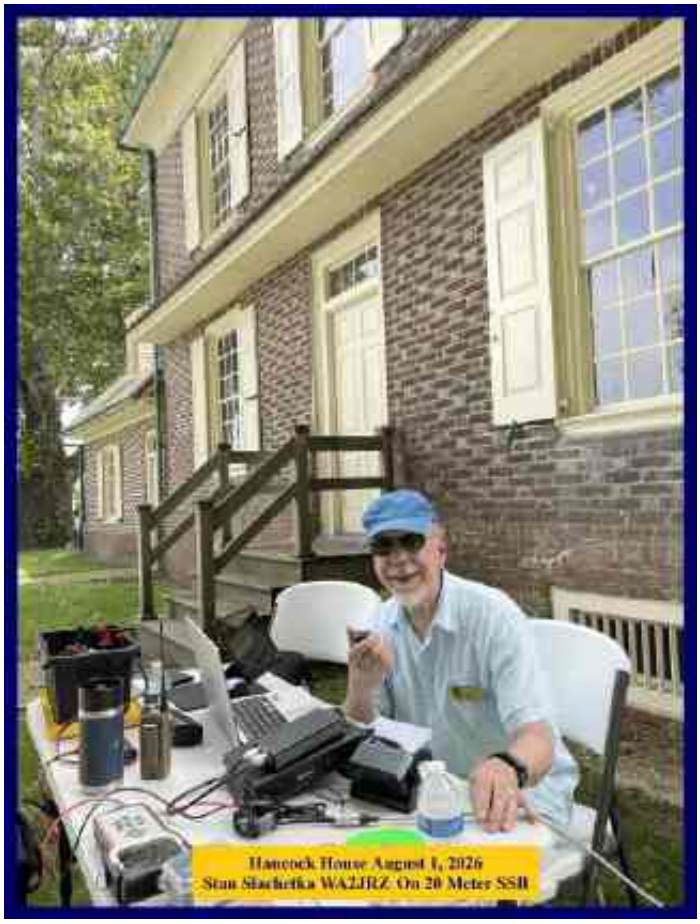
What will also make this activation special is the fact that we will be operating from one of the bunkers in the fort, providing us with a unique and interesting operating experience.

More information about the Fort Mott activation and the Historic Soldiers weekend will be provided in the coming weeks. We also will be providing an online registration form for members interested in participating. I am looking forward to another exciting Club event and hope you can participate.

Sorry if you couldn't attend our Hancock House POTA event, but hopefully you can join us at Fort Mott or in a future Club organized POTA activation.

Fort Mott Registration Portal :
https://registration.w2mmd.org/wpregp/pota-signup-fort-mott

Hancock House Activation - Continued on page 36



Fort Mott Registration Portal :
https://registration.w2mmd.org/wpregp/pota-signup-fort-mott

454 Fort Mott Road
Pennsville, NJ 08070
https://dep.nj.gov/parksandforests/state-park/fort-mott-state-park/

- Historic Soldiers Weekend https://soldiersweekend.com/
- Saturday September 26 & Sunday September 27
- Special event call **W2M**
  - www.arrl.org/special-event-stations
- Operation during both days of the event
- SSB/CW/FT8
- Bunker in the central portion of the event area
- Coordination with Fort Mott staff on set up
- Re-enactors and special demonstrations
- Ferry to historic Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island and to Delaware City, Delaware

2024-2028 Element 4 Amateur Extra Class License Question Quiz

This month we continue with Subelement E6 Circuit Components (6 exam questions - 6 groups).
(***Answers on last page***)

E6D01
What is piezoelectricity?
A. The ability of materials to generate electromagnetic waves of a certain frequency when voltage is applied
B. A characteristic of materials that have an index of refraction which depends on the polarization of the electromagnetic wave passing through it
C. A characteristic of materials that generate a voltage when stressed and that flex when a voltage is applied
D. The ability of materials to generate voltage when an electromagnetic wave of a certain frequency is applied

E6D02
What is the equivalent circuit of a quartz crystal?
A. Series RLC in parallel with a shunt C representing electrode and stray capacitance
B. Parallel RLC, where C is the parallel combination of resonance capacitance of the crystal and electrode and stray capacitance
C. Series RLC, where C is the parallel combination of resonance capacitance of the crystal and electrode and stray capacitance
D. Parallel RLC, where C is the series combination of resonance capacitance of the crystal and electrode and stray capacitance

E6D03
Which of the following is an aspect of the piezoelectric effect?
A. Mechanical deformation of material due to the application of a voltage
B. Mechanical deformation of material due to the application of a magnetic field
C. Generation of electrical energy in the presence of light
D. Increased conductivity in the presence of light

E6D04
Why are cores of inductors and transformers sometimes constructed of thin layers?
A. To simplify assembly during manufacturing
B. To reduce power loss from eddy currents in the core
C. To increase the cutoff frequency by reducing capacitance
D. To save cost by reducing the amount of magnetic material

E6D05
How do ferrite and powdered iron compare for use in an inductor core?
A. Ferrite cores generally have lower initial permeability
B. Ferrite cores generally have better temperature stability
C. Ferrite cores generally require fewer turns to produce a given inductance value
D. Ferrite cores are easier to use with surface-mount technology

E6D06
What core material property determines the inductance of an inductor?
A. Permittivity
B. Resistance
C. Reactivity
D. Permeability

Element 4 Amateur Extra Class Quiz - Continued on page 38

Element 4 Amateur Extra Class Quiz - Continued from page 37

E6D08
Which of the following materials has the highest temperature stability of its magnetic characteristics?
A. Brass
B. Powdered iron
C. Ferrite
D. Aluminum

E6D09
What devices are commonly used as VHF and UHF parasitic suppressors at the input and output terminals of a transistor HF amplifier?
A. Electrolytic capacitors
B. Butterworth filters
C. Ferrite beads
D. Steel-core toroids

E6D10
What is a primary advantage of using a toroidal core instead of a solenoidal core in an inductor?
A. Toroidal cores confine most of the magnetic field within the core material
B. Toroidal cores make it easier to couple the magnetic energy into other components
C. Toroidal cores exhibit greater hysteresis
D. Toroidal cores have lower Q characteristics

E6D11
Which type of core material decreases inductance when inserted into a coil?
A. Ceramic
B. Brass
C. Ferrite
D. Aluminum

E6D12
What causes inductor saturation?
A. Operation at too high a frequency
B. Selecting a core with low permeability
C. Operation at excessive magnetic flux
D. Selecting a core with excessive permittivity

New QRZ Award: USA250 (The 250th Anniversary of the United States of America)

In 2026, the United States of America will commemorate a historic milestone — the **250th anniversary of its founding**. To honor this once-in-a-lifetime event, QRZ is proud to introduce a special commemorative operating award: **USA 250.**

The **USA 250 Award** is available to amateur radio operators **worldwide** and is granted upon the successful confirmation of **250 two-way contacts with US-based amateur radio stations** made during the 2026 calendar year.

Award Requirements
To earn the USA 250 Award, operators must:

- Make **250 confirmed QSOs** with **US-based amateur radio stations** (operating from DXCC entities 291, 6, 110, 9, 103, 202 or 285)
- Contacts may be made on **any band** and **any mode.** Transmission may not make use of a relay, repeater or internet linking.
- Licensed operators **in any country** are eligible
- QSOs must take place **during the 2026 calendar year only**
- The operating window opens at **00:00 UTC on January 1, 2026**
- All contacts must be **confirmed on QRZ Logbook** (imported LoTW confirmations accepted)
- The official rules can be found here **https://www.qrz.com/page/qrz-operating-awards**

Operating Period
January 1, 2026 00:00:00 – December 31, 2026 23:59:59 (UTC)

From The Help Desk - September 2026

By Chris Prioli AD2CS - chris@ad2cs.com - www.ad2cs.com

Note : This is an ongoing series of related articles that will each take a look at some facet of radio selection, installation, or operation as suggested by actual questions received from Club members or other amateur operators.

Q : I frequently hear about something called ***"insertion loss"*** whenever filters are being discussed. I have also seen the term used in magazine articles where filters are being described or reviewed. I am confused as to what the term means, how important it is, and how (and why) it is measured. Would you explain what it is that I should know and understand about insertion loss? Also, would you explain why it is important to know and understand all about this topic?

A : The term ***"insertion loss"*** as related to filters refers to the specific quantitative attenuation of a signal that occurs as a direct result of simply installing a filter in the signal path. Any filter will have some inherent impedance, which will, when the filter is placed into the circuit, act upon that circuit as any resistance or impedance would. This will have an attenuating effect on the signal in whose path the filter is inserted.

Insertion loss is normally measured in decibels (dB), and hopefully will be only a small fraction of a single decibel. As an example, we built some notching filters for filtering out the CW portion of the various bands on which we operate for Field Day. These filters typically exhibit insertion loss in the area of 0.11dB, a very minimal amount - but nonetheless, an appreciable amount compared to the filter not being there at all.

If we look at the decibel scale, a loss level of 1 decibel would equate to a loss of 20.6% of the power, or 10.9% reduction of the voltage or amplitude of the signal. Similarly, 2dB equates to a loss of 36.9% in power or a 20.6% reduction in signal voltage or amplitude, with a 3dB loss producing loss levels of 50% of the power or 29.2% reduction of the signal voltage or amplitude. Because the decibel scale is logarithmic, dropping from 1 dB to 2 dB does not double the percentage lost; instead, the loss compounds. The 0.11dB insertion loss referenced above for the Field Day notch filters produces a loss of 2.50% in power or a loss of 1.26% in signal voltage or amplitude. This is an exceptionally small, often negligible level of attenuation typically seen in high-quality hardware components. It is also just about the minimum insertion loss possible in this type of filter, especially given the filter design and the components used in its construction.

Because the insertion loss of a filter has a direct effect on the signal level being passed through that filter, it is important to understand just how high the insertion loss is, and to do everything possible to minimize that loss. This includes using cables and connectors of the highest quality and lowest loss figures, as these components are necessary for connection of the filter into the circuit and are therefore contributory to the overall insertion loss of the filter system.

The reason for knowing about and understanding the concept of insertion loss is so that a true understanding can be had of the signal present through the filter, and therefore how much of the generated (or received) signal is remaining to process through the rest of the signal path.

For example… suppose a filter with an insertion loss figure of 1.25dB is installed in the receive path of a transceiver. This filter will then reduce the incoming signal power by 25%, or the incoming signal amplitude by 13.4%. The 25% power reduction means that only 75% of the original received signal will make it through to the receiver. Now… further suppose that the incoming signal was an S9 signal. The effect of this filter will vary depending upon the band of operation, as follows :

From The Help Desk - Continued on page 40

From The Help Desk - Continued from page 39

On HF bands (below 30 MHz)

An S9 signal on HF is standardized at -73 dBm, which represents 50 picowatts (pW) of power or 50 microvolts (µV) of voltage across a 50-ohm system.

- **Original S9 Signal Power : 50.12pW (-73.00 dBm)**
- **Signal Power After 1.25 dB Loss : 37.58pW (-74.25 dBm)**
- **Total Power Lost : 12.54pW (Exactly a 25.0% drop in energy)**
- **Original S9 Signal Voltage : 50.06µV**
- **Signal Voltage After 1.25 dB Loss : 43.35µV**
- **Total Voltage Lost : 6.71µV (A 13.4% drop in amplitude)**

On VHF/UHF bands (above 30 MHz)

An S9 signal on VHF/UHF is standardized 20 dB lower at -93 dBm, which represents 0.5 picowatts (pW) of power or 5 microvolts (µV) of voltage across a 50-ohm system.

- **Original S9 Signal Power : 0.501pW (-93.00 dBm)**
- **Signal Power After 1.25 dB Loss : 0.376pW (-94.25 dBm)**
- **Total Power Lost : 0.125pW**
- **Original S9 Signal Voltage : 5.01µV**
- **Signal Voltage After 1.25 dB Loss : 4.34µV**
- **Total Voltage Lost : 0.67µV**

Of course, this has a certain impact on the S-meter indications presented. Because a single S-unit represents a 6 dB change, you can calculate the exact visual movement on your radio's meter :

$$S-unit\ drop = \frac{1.25dB}{6dB\ per\ S-unit} = 0.21\ S-units$$

The received signal will effectively drop from an S9 to roughly an S8.8. In practical voice or data operations, this slight drop is completely unnoticeable to the human ear and will not impact readability unless you are already operating right at the absolute noise floor.

This all makes it abundantly clear that even relatively low insertion losses, such as the 1.25dB loss cited in the example above, result in some substantial reduction in power and amplitude levels. This should then also make it clear just why we want the insertion loss to be as low as we can possibly get it.

I hope that this goes a long way to building your understanding of this important topic, and that you gain a greater appreciation of the need for the least possible insertion loss - and just why we are so concerned about it in the first place.

See you next month!

Club Merchandise from the K2ZA Workshop
Contact John Zaruba Jr K2ZA at k2za@icloud.com
Go To : https://gloucestercountyarc.weebly.com/club-merchandise.html

Jersey String Band Update Report

By Glenn Dougherty N2YIO

Well we are getting ready to the start the 2027 Mummer Season. We should be getting our music in the next couple of weeks. Then the Band can start working on it. Due to the competition not being held on New Years Day this past year, everything is a little behind schedule, but we will have it down and be ready for New Years Day 2027.

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 : The Band will be on the Ocean City Boardwalk. We will be starting at 6th Street at 7 PM and march to 10th Street where we will meet up with the Uptown String Band coming from 14th Street. Both bands should be at 10th Street at 8 PM. They will play a few songs and maybe even combine both bands into one to have a few pictures taken with some fans. Both bands will march back to their starting points and should be done by 9 PM. We are hoping for good weather for these last two Boardwalk Parades.

Tuesday, August 25, 2026 : The Band will be back again on the Ocean City Boardwalk starting at 7 PM. This time we will be coming from 14th Street marching to 10th Street. We will be meeting up with the Greater Kensington String Band and will do the same as we did with the Uptown String Band and then go back to 14th Street by 9 PM.

Saturday, September 12, 2026 : All 14 string bands will be in North Wildwood for the Mummers Weekend at Keenan's on Old New Jersey Avenue. I don't have a time for that one, it will probably around 4 PM because that is also the same weekend as the Wildwood Air Show.

Saturday, September 19, 2026 : The Band will be taking part in The String Band Wiffle Ball Tournament in Gloucester City. The games will begin at 10 AM at the field at 200 Pershing Road in Brooklawn.

Well that is all the jobs we have for August and September. Our Captain is already working on finalizing our Halloween and Christmas Parades for October and December. The Band will be starting twice a week practices sometime in the middle of October to get ready for New Years 2027. We are still looking for some building to hold our weekend practices in, so if anyone has any suggestions, please let me know

73, N2YIO Glenn

Join ARRL In Celebrating America's 250th - On The Air!

In 2026, ARRL is commemorating America's 250th birthday with a yearlong on-the-air celebration: the America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award. Running from January 1 through December 31, this special operating event challenges amateurs of all license classes to contact all 50 US states and confirm those QSOs via **ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW - https://lotw.arrl.org/lotwuser/default).** Modeled after the classic WAS Award, America250 WAS encourages activity across nearly every band - from LF through microwaves - and on CW, phone, and digital, culminating in a commemorative, frameworthy WAS certificate.

Participants can pursue America250 WAS in many ways, with endorsements recognizing achievements by band, by mode, Triple Play (all three modes), by satellite, by contacting ARRL Affiliated Club Stations in all 50 states, and by contacting W1AW/portable in all 50 states. Throughout 2026, the iconic W1AW call sign will be "loaned" to stations nationwide, activating each state twice during the year. All confirmations are handled through LoTW, making it easy to track progress and apply for awards and endorsements. Operations begin 0000z on Wednesday, and end on 2359z Tuesday (7 days total for each activation).

See the complete schedule at the QR Code or the following URL : https://tinyurl.com/America250Schedule

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Meeting opened @ 1900 Hours by President Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Attendance :

- **In-person : 37**
- **Via Zoom : 13**

Visitors :

- **Steve DiMedio N3IYE - ZOOM**
- **Jay Garnier KC2CSH**
- **Albert Helfrick K2BLA - ZOOM**
- **Kaylee Howlett**

New Members :

1. **Michael Canino KE2IXG, Pittsgrove, NJ**
- **Bob Famiglio K3RF, Media, PA**
- **Dominic Francesconi KE2IWQ, Haddon Township, NJ**
- **Sandy Stevenson, Sewell, NJ**
- **Rabih Tannous W2VO, Cumming, GA**
- **Edward Warren KE2IVT, Atco, NJ**

Announcements :

- **Rich Subers W2RHS (SK)**
- Congratulations to **Angela Metzger KE2DRJ** on passing her Amateur Extra Class exam.

Upcoming Clubhouse Events :

- Tech Saturday 8/8 - Meteor Scatter Planning
- License Testing 8/13 @ 7PM
- BoD Meeting 8/19 @ 7PM
- Dinner at the Club House 8/26 @ 6PM

Member current activities :

- **Stan Slachetka WA2JRZ** reported on the recent Hancock House POTA activation and the upcoming FT. Mott activation.

Business Meeting :

- Minutes of July 2026 business meeting as published in CrossTalk were approved by voice vote of members present.

Treasurer's report :

- 2026 Year to Date Income and Expense
- Remarks: Treasurer's motion to approve report passed by voice vote of members present.

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Foundation :

- **John O'Connell K2QA** reported via Zoom.

August 2026 General Membership Meeting Minutes - Continued on page 43

August 2026 General Membership Meeting Minutes - Continued from page 42

Clubhouse report :

- **Chris Prioli AD2CS** discussed the new HF radio for the Clubhouse.
- **Al Arrison KB2AYU** reported on the capture and relocation of local fauna. He also discussed a recent band opening that went into the 2M and FM broadcast bands.

HAMFEST :

- **Ron Block NR2B** provided an update on hamfest preparations and made an appeal for member help.

DX / Contests :

- **Tony Starr K3TS** reported on upcoming contests for August.

Education Committee :

- **Angela Metzger KE2DRJ** announced Woodruff Middle School STEM Club is scheduled to make an **International Space Station (ISS)** contact. She also reported on her attendance at the ARRL Teachers Institute in Newington, CT.

Technical committee :

- **Jon Pearce WB2MNF** reported on regional Meshtastic tests of different modulation strategies to improve network performance.

Presentation : "Recreating the Apollo EVCS AM Transmitter" By Steve DiMedio N3IYE

Meeting adjourned @ 1958 Hours.

Respectfully submitted,
John Zaruba K2ZA,
Recording Secretary

Operating Tip

This is more a station building and layout tip. Magnetically coupled noise may be a problem in the rat's nest of cables you see under the average operating position. Hal Kennedy, N4GG, talked about this in his Contest University presentation, and suggested some practical things to do to minimize the coupling effects from noise generators and noise conductors. Keep coax at least 6 inches away from switching power supplies of any kind. Don't bundle signal cables and power cables together. The slides are worth going through, and I'm looking forward to the posting of the video of the presentation.

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Meeting opened @ 1900 Hours by President Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF

Attendance :

- **President Jon Pearce WB2MNF : Present**
- **Vice President Ron Block NR2B : Present**
- **Treasurer John O'Connell K2QA : Present**
- **Recording Secretary John Zaruba Jr K2ZA : Present**
- **Corresponding Secretary Mike Resnick N2WOQ : Present**
- **Director (2024-2026) Al Arrison KB2AYU : Present**
- **Director (2024-2026) Bill Price NJ2S : Present**
- **Director (2025-2027) Jeffrey Garth WB2ZBN : Present**
- **Director (2025-2027) Frank Romeo N3PUU : Present**
- **Director (2026-2028) Chris Prioli AD2CS : Present**
- **Director (2026-2028) James Wright N2GXJ : ZOOM**
- Trustee (2023-2026) Sheldon Parker K2MEN :
- Trustee (2024-2027) Len Rust W2LJR :
- Trustee (2025-2028) Earl Moore KC2NCH :
- Trustee (2026-2029) Greg Ciraula K3GC :
- **Diane Amico W2WHD : Member, ZOOM**

New Member Applications :

- **Luis Acosta KE2JBN, Westampton, NJ**
- **Vincent Lomino KD3DRZ, Philadelphia, PA**
- **Larry Mapow KX2M, Millville, NJ (Returning Member 2023)**
- **Dominic Rota, Williamstown, NJ**
- **Tyler Wall KO4UUT, Dawsonville, NJ**
- **Kyle Yankanich K3YLE, Norristown, PA**

Treasurer's Report :

- **Income : $14,680.96**
- **Expense : $10,749.29**
- **Net : $3,931.67**

Detailed financial statements are available for member review upon request.

Committees :

- **Clubhouse : Al Arrison KB2AYU** discussed VHF/UHF developments along with the new (used) air conditioner in the HF room.
- **Programs : Jon Pearce WB2MNF** and **Chris Prioli AD2CS** discussed new ham orientation program ideas.
- **Education : Jon Pearce WB2MNF** reported that the Woodruff School STEM club has been approved for a QSO with the International Space Station sometime in 2027.
- **Membership :** Motion to approve new member applications passed by voice vote of Club officers present. Motion to waive associate membership fees for Dominic Rota passed by voice vote of Club officers present.
- **Hamfest : Ron Block NR2B** provided an update on preparations.

August 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Continued on page 45

August 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Continued from page 44

Old Business :

- Motion to approve previous meeting minutes passed by voice vote of Club officers present.
- Motion to approve Treasurer's report passed by voice vote of Club officers present.
- **Jeff Garth WB2ZBN** asked about the status of the AED for the Clubhouse. **John Zaruba K2ZA** will look into it.

New Business :

- **Jon Pearce WB2MNF** discussed recent meetings with Inspira Healthcare, PhillyMesh, and internal Auxcomm / Emcomm constituencies.
- **Jon Pearce WB2MNF** discussed technical issues with the Clubhouse Meshtastic node and Club WSPR network.
- **Club Nets :**
  - 40 Meter Net : 7.172 MHz (+/- 10 kHz) @ 1930 Hours
  - 2 Meter Nets :
    - July 2026 :
      - ⇒ Tuesday : Average 7.5 check ins
      - ⇒ Thursday : Average 6.6 check ins

Meeting adjourned @ 2017 Hours

Respectfully Submitted,
John Zaruba Jr K2ZA
Recording Secretary

The ARRL Teachers Institute (TI) welcomed participants in the TI Space Communications and Radio Astronomy session, instructed by Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, at ARRL Headquarters in Connecticut

The teachers learned how to make contacts via amateur radio FM and linear satellites, as well as the International Space Station. They captured weather satellite imagery directly from NOAA satellites, and built a radio astronomy system consisting of a dipole antenna array and a software defined radio capable of receiving radio signals from the sun and Jupiter. They were also given a tour of the MIT Haystack Observatory, an interdisciplinary radio science research center in Westford, Massachusetts.

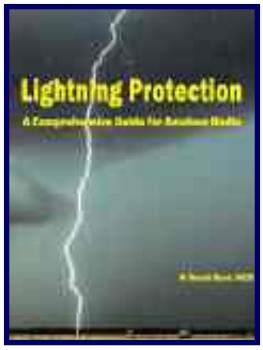
[Photo left] (left to right) :

- **Dawn Sudbury, KR4HKP, North Port, Florida**
- **Jackie Blumer, KC9LEH, Sorento, Illinois**
- **Dana Serfass, KL5UM, Eagle River, Alaska**
- **Charnell Long, KR4EPT, Greensboro, North Carolina**
- **Scott Valenta, W9DU, Berkeley, Illinois**
- **Kay Orr, K5ORR, Rockwall, Texas**
- **John Geimer, K4GEI, Sarasota, Florida**
- **Leslie Reese, KI5ISS, Terrell, Texas**
- **Angela Metzger, KE2DRJ, Vineland, New Jersey (Red circle)**
- **Instructor Wayne Greene, KB4DSF**

[Gregory Sulla, KC1YNI, photos]

Article Credit : The ARRL Letter for July 30, 2026 - www.arrl.org

Lightning Protection :
A Comprehensive Guide for Amateur Radio
Author : W. Ronald Block, NR2B
Contact : ron@wrblock.com
Website : www.wrblock.com



ARRL Year Of The Club Contests Celebrate Outstanding Club Websites And Newsletters

As part of ARRL's 2026 Year of the Club spotlight, Affiliated Clubs were invited to show how they use two important communications tools - their websites and newsletters - to engage members, strengthen their organizations, and promote amateur radio. The response was enthusiastic, with more than 80 entries submitted in each contest from clubs across the country.

The contests were designed not simply to identify the "best-looking" website or newsletter, but to recognize radio clubs that are using these tools effectively to serve their members. A good club website can make it easy for prospective and current members to find information, learn about activities, and get involved. A good newsletter can keep members connected between meetings, share technical knowledge and operating opportunities, celebrate club accomplishments, and give members another reason to stay engaged.

"The goal was to highlight the many creative ways radio clubs communicate with their members," said ARRL Director of Publications and Editorial Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY. "We hope these winning websites and newsletters will give other clubs ideas they can adapt to their own organizations. There's no single formula for an effective club communication - what matters is understanding your audience and giving them useful, interesting reasons to connect and keep connected with the club."

Outstanding Club Newsletters

Newsletter entries were judged in three membership categories :

- **Large Clubs (more than 120 members)**
- **Medium Clubs (60–120 members)**
- **Small Clubs (fewer than 60 members)**

Judges considered the navigability and attractiveness of the publications, as well as the variety and quality of their content. Two entries also earned special commendations for doing an outstanding job serving specialized audiences.

The winners are :

Large Clubs

First Place : Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club, W2MMD, Pitman, New Jersey - CrossTalk, edited by Jeffrey Garth, WB2ZBN

Second Place : Long Island CW Club, W2LCW, Global - Long Island CW Club Newsletter, edited by Richard Spohn, WB2GXM

Medium Clubs

First Place : Ozaukee Radio Club, W9CQO, Grafton, Wisconsin - The Ozaukee Radio Club Newsletter, edited by William Shadid, W9MXQ

Second Place : East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, W2EGB, East Greenbush, New York - Sidebands, edited by Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ

ARRL Year Of The Club Winners - Continued on page 48

ARRL Year Of The Club Winners - Continued from page 47

Honorable Mention : Providence Radio Association, W1OP, Johnston, Rhode Island - The Old Professor, edited by Thomas Greenwood, W1ER

Small Clubs

First Place : Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association, W2NYW, Greater Peekskill/Cortlandt Area, New York - PCARA Update, edited by Malcolm G. Pritchard, NM9J

Second Place : Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club, W6BA, Morongo Basin, California - MBARC Beacon, edited by Aaron Chesney, KM6IAU

Special Commendations

Best Newsletter for a Specialized Audience : Families and Youth: Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society, W1STR, Natick, Massachusetts - Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society News, edited by Robert F. Phinney, K5TEC

Best Newsletter for a Specialized Audience : Global Audience: Young Ladies' Radio League, K4LMB, Global - YL Harmonics, edited by Kathleen Houlihan, WA5DUC

Newsletter contest judges were :

- ARRL Director of Publications and Editorial Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY
- ARRL Senior Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R
- NCJ Editor and PVRC Newsletter Editor John Pescatore, K3TN
- ARRL News Editor, past Ohio Section PIC, and past coordinator of the Ohio Section Newsletter Contest John Ross, KD8IDJ

Outstanding Club Websites

The website contest focused on three key areas: layout, content, and accessibility. Judges with extensive experience in website development, systems administration, and web infrastructure evaluated the entries to identify sites that effectively serve their clubs and their audiences.

The winners are :

First Place : Cumberland Valley Amateur Radio Club, W3ACH, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania - **www.w3ach.com**, webmaster Caleb C. Jacobs, KC3VPB

Second Place : Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club, W6EK, Auburn, California - **www.w6ek.org**, webmaster Mike "Smitty" Smith, WB1G

Third Place : Ventura County Amateur Radio Club, K6MEP, Ventura, California - **www.k6mep.org**, webmaster David Schmidt, AI6VX

Website contest judges were :

- ARRL New England Division Vice Director Phil Temples, K9HI
- ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Technical Coordinator Dan Brown, W1DAN
- ARRL member Erica Zavaleta, W7WXR. Erica is currently a DevOps Engineer managing web infrastructure for a regional ISP.

The winning websites and newsletters are worth a visit - not only to congratulate the clubs, but also to see how they organize information, promote activities, welcome newcomers, and communicate what makes their clubs active and relevant. They offer examples of different approaches to content, design, and audience - demonstrating that success doesn't have to follow a particular template.

ARRL Year Of The Club Winners - Continued on page 49

ARRL Year Of The Club Winners - Continued from page 48

The contests are part of ARRL's broader Year of the Club effort to celebrate the vital role that amateur radio clubs play in building and sustaining the amateur radio community. Clubs are where many radio amateurs first find a mentor, learn a new skill, participate in an event, or make the connections that keep them active in the hobby.

"Club leaders, newsletter editors, and webmasters: take a look at what these clubs are doing and borrow an idea or two for your own club," said ARRL Emergency Communications and Field Services Director Josh Johnston, KE5MHV. "Year of the Club is a celebration of what clubs accomplish - and an invitation to keep building on that success."

ARRL and the contest judges are grateful for the enthusiastic response to the call for contest entries, and commend all entrants on the talent and time they devote to the creation of these important club communication tools.

The contest winners will be honored at the 2026 ARRL National Convention, hosted by the Huntsville Hamfest, August 21-23 in Huntsville, Alabama, and will also be featured in a 2026 issue of QST.

Article Credit : The ARRL Letter for August 13, 2026 - www.arrl.org

Regional Skywarn Websites For On-Line And In-Person Training Classes

Philadelphia/Mt Holly Skywarn : www.weather.gov/phi/skywarn
State College, PA Skywarn : www.weather.gov/ctp/skywarn
Pittsburgh, PA Skywarn : www.weather.gov/pbz/skywarn

Weather Information Nets & Frequencies

Hurricane Watch Net : www.hwn.org

- **Day Time : 14.325 MHz**
- **Night Time : 7.268 MHz**
- **Information : 14.300 MHz**

Local SKYWARN Frequencies :

- **Atlantic County : K2BR, 146.745 MHz (-) 146.2 Hz**
  - ◊ **Net Every Monday @ 2000 Hours**
- **Camden County : K2EOC, 146.895 MHz (-) 91.5 Hz**
  - ◊ **Net Every Thursday @ 2030 Hours**
- **Cumberland County : WA2WUN, 145.490 MHz, (-) 179.9 Hz**
  - ◊ **Net Every Monday @ 1930 Hours**
- **Gloucester County : W2MMD, 147.180 MHz (+) 131.8 Hz**
  - ◊ **Net Every Sunday @ 1930 Hours**
- **Salem County : N2KEJ, 146.625 MHz (-) 131.8 Hz**

What is a Skywarn Spotter?
By Jonathan Guseman KJ4ZWS, Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service Central PA - https://www.weather.gov/skywarn

Spotters are our eyes/ears in the field! The NWS depends on our spotters to give us ground truth, therefore assisting in warning issuance and being heavily involved in reporting and documentation. As we issue warnings from inside of our offices, we greatly appreciate our spotters assisting us in the field and describing to us what is happening.

New Members Support Group & Discord Channel

- **Objective : To focus Club resources on the needs of newly licensed members**
- **Supported by "new_members" Discord Channel**

Additional Support :

- **Saturday Morning @ The W2MMD Clubhouse**
- **GCARC@MAILMAN.QTH.NET Club E-mail Reflector**
- **E-Mail President @ w2mmd.org**

To Be Added To The DX HONOR ROLL or Update Your Number, Please Contact Ernest Kraus KD2EAV meanddelcanotc@verizon.net

GLOUCESTER COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
DX HONOR ROLL
NEW JERSEY

Name/Callsign	DXCC
Bill Grim W0MHK	352
Dave Strout W2YC	349
Edward De Fonzo W2DE	339
Darrell Neron AB2E	337
Bob Pantazes W2ARP	305
Gary Castellini N2IEC	294
Jim Wright N2GXJ	286
Sheldon Parker K2MEN	285
Vinnie Sallustio N4NYY	282
John Hill W2HUV	271
Tony Starr K3TS	250
Kenny Denson WB2P	248
Dennis Sandole K2SE	231
Bart Kleczynski AC2PT	180
Eric Morris N2BRJ	175
Art Strong KA0WS	169
Howard Marder WA2IBZ	161
Ben Johnson NE2R	153
Phil Nunzio WA3RGY	151
Steve Farney W2SEF	149
Marc Federici WM2Y	117
Chuck Capasso WB2PGE	104
Harry Strahlendorf W3DNQ	103
Jim Clark KA2OSV	87
Updated As Of 08/20/2026	

"The big thing about being in a club and being a "Ham" is to help each other when there is a need "
- W2SEF

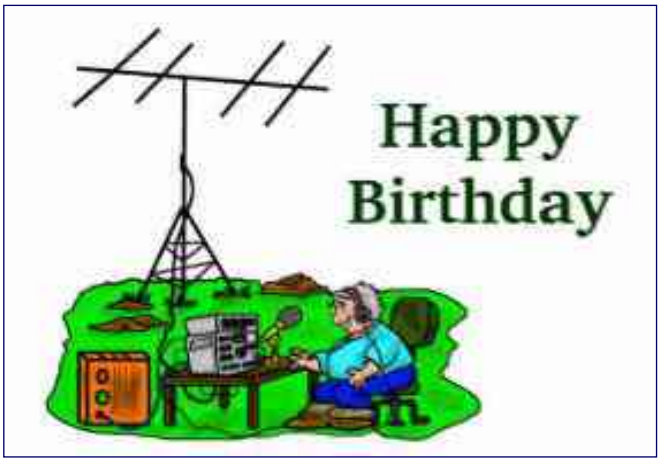
Hmm...It's Saturday and you want to know if someone is at the Clubhouse? Why not call and find out!

W2MMD Clubhouse : 856-244-6914

September Birthdays

Congratulations To Our Members Who Are Celebrating A Birthday This Month

Jim Anderson N2DQG
Jim Blose KD2TAT
Ken Bozarth KN2U
Marylu Ciraula K3MLC
Bob Famiglio K3RF
Misael Fernandez Jr KE2EBL
Harold Garron Jr AC2BK
Tony Giardina Jr WE2D
Mark Gottlieb KK2L
Dale Guenther KE2CYM
John Hill W2HUV
Steve Jordan KB2RGZ
Conor McCaffrey KD2KJX
Bill Price NJ2S
Jim Ricketts KC3TYH
Gene Schoeberlein AA2YO
Jim Simeone KC2AOF
Bill Wood KD2OSJ
Marian Yanka KE2GOL



In Memoriam : September Birthdays

Mark Anthony WA2WFZ
Earl Bende W2USG (Charter Member)
Frederick Bergmann WB2BPX
Harold Berry Sr WA2QOY
William Blakeley WA2ADB
William Burbage N2QEB
Wallace Cantoni W2HVW
Charles Coder WA2UHQ
Robert Derderian Jr N2IPH
Joseph Everhart N2CX
Sidney Gantz WB2JRU
Sonny Gutin WB2DXB
William Hansche Jr W2ILL
James Langworthy KB2PAU
John Layton W9UK
(President 1965, Charter Member)
Jose Lopez Jr WB2OZE
Joseph Mitchell KB2FRN
Henry Nierzwicki N2OIP
Frank Ritter K2UUY
Samuel Rosenberg N2DWK
Wayne Sheridan WD5CMP
Jean Shisler N2WRJ
Horace Simpson W2JOZ (Charter Member)
Harry Spiece NJ2B
Russell Stafford W3CH
Melvyn Sulzburgh W2NM
Edward Wargo WA2ED

CrossTalk Submissions

This is your Club Magazine. Make use of it.

If you have stories or photos of your hobby that you would like to share with the Club, please do so! We will keep covering all of the GCARC events, but it is also nice to get those personal perspectives to include in every issue. Connecting through experiences is what makes the Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club a *REAL Club*.

All submissions, queries, comments, and editorials should be addressed to :
Jeff Garth WB2ZBN at djgrath1 <*at*> gmail <*dot*> com

Submission deadline for the October 2026 issue : Sunday, September 20, 2026

Club Website www.w2mmd.org
Club E-Mail Reflector : GCARC <*at*> Mailman <*dot*> QTH <*dot*> Net

W2MMD Clubhouse Test & Repair Bench Equipment and Supplies
Another FREE Clubhouse Resource Available To All Club Members

A Special Thank You to Chris AD2CS for donating the equipment and organizing these test benches

- YiHua 948 11-in-1 Solder Station
- Universal Screwdriver Set
- PanaVise PCB vise with full tilt and rotate on parts bin base
- 500 Watt Dummy Load
- 100 Watt Dummy Load
- Heathkit HD-1234 6-position Coax Switch with RG-213 jumpers
- Hook-up Wire :
  - 18 AWG stranded
  - 22 AWG solid and stranded
  - 24 AWG solid and stranded
- Bird 4304A Thruline Directional Wattmeter
- CMS BE-01 Battery Eliminator 1A/1.5-15V Power Supply
- 12 AWG Red/Black Dual Stranded ZIP Wire
- Simpson 260 Series 5 Analog Multimeter
- CMS ESR-01 Equivalent Series Resistance Meter
- Elenco DT-100 Diode & Transistor Tester
- TekPower TP50SW 50A/13.8V Power Supply
- Elenco XP-720 12.6VAC/5VDC/1.5-15VDC 3A/1A Power Supply
- RSR Electronix Express RSR-3040 15VAC/5VD/1.5-15VDC 3A/1A Power Supply
- BK Precision 1803D Frequency Counter
- KKmoon MHS-5225 Digital Arbitrary Waveform Signal Generator
- Exact 121 Analog Signal Generator
- Greenlee DM-510A Handheld Digital Multimeter
- HP 34410A Benchtop Digital Multimeter
- BK Precision 1655 Variable isolated AC Supply
- CMS Dim Bulb Current Limiter - 100 Watt
- CMS BDST-01 Signal Tracer
- CMS CRTT-01 Gas-charged Voltage Regulator Tube Tester
- Conar 224 Tube Tester
- GW LCR-814 LCR Meter
- Siglent SDS-1102CML+ Digital Storage Oscilloscope
- DX Engineering Coaxial Cable Gripper and Stripper (RG-8U / RG-213)
- DX Engineering Coaxial Cable Cutter, Trimmer, and Crimper (RG-8U / RG-213)
- DX Engineering RG-8X Die Set for Coaxial Cable Crimper
- Adjustable Wrench Set for Slotted/Recessed Round Nuts
- Speedwox Miniature Box Wrench Sets, Metric and SAE
- 69238 Nut Driver Set, Metric
- 69239 Nut Driver Set, SAE
- Velleman K-8115 Universal Component Tester
- Anderson Powerpole® Connector Assortment
- Anderson Powerpole® Crimping Tool
- Heat Shrink Tube Assortment, cut lengths
- Ring Terminal Assortment
- Alignment Tool Set
- Craftsman Wire Cutter/Crimper
- Craftsman 6-piece Pliers Set
- Laptop PC
- Programming Cable Sets (2)
- Test Lead Set
- Oscilloscope Probe Set

Announced DX Operations : September 2026
www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html
From The Shack of Bill Feidt NG3K : www.ng3k.com

September						
2026 Sep01	2026 Sep12	Grenada	J3	LoTW	OPDX 20260418	By MM8IJU as J38LD and GM5RDX as J38DX fm IOTA NA-024; 80-6m; SSB FT8 FT4; QSL via M0OXO
2026 Sep04	2026 Sep07	Palau	T88PB	LoTW	OPDX 20260628	By JA0JHQ fm Koror I (IOTA OC-009, PJ77fi); HF; CW; QRV for All Asia DX SSB; QSL via JA0JHQ direct
2026 Sep04	2026 Sep11	Kosovo	Z68PX	LoTW	DXW.Net 20260709	By IZ2DPX fm Grashtice; 60-6m; SSB FT8 FT4; vertical, dipoles; QSL via Club Log OQRS or IZ2DPX (B/d)
2026 Sep04	2026 Sep12	Vietnam	3W9C	LoTW	DXW.Net 20260728	By SP5APW fm Hon Son I (IOTA AS-128); focus on 6m, some 20 15 10m; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2026 Sep12	2026 Sep19	Ogasawara	JD1 NEW	DK7PE (B/d)	DK7PE 20260811	By DK7PE as JD1/JG1PFR; HF; CW
2026 Sep23	2026 Sep29	Bermuda	VP9I	LoTW	TDDX 20260716	By N7NU WJ7R K7AR; @VP9GE; CQWW DX RTTY; QRV Sep 23-29 as N7NU/VP9; HF; SSB CW + digital; QSL via N7NUTDDX
2026 Sep30	2026 Oct11	Dem Rep Congo	9T0MD	LoTW	OPDX 20260317	By MDXC Team; 160-6m; SSB CW FT8 RTTY; QSL via IK2VUC (B/d)

Also for your convenience, there is a direct link to NG3K on our website. Click on the NG3K DX Page.

Word to the Wise : S/P/C

When used in the context of a contest, denotes that a State, Province, or Country name is used in the exchange. For example, in a typical QSO party, a station in the QSO party state will give their county and state. A non-QSO party state will provide their state. A DX station will provide their country, or "DX" and typically let the logging program figure it out. Depending on the contest, each unique S/P/C can be a multiplier.

Full Corn Moon : September 26, 2026 @ 1250 Hours.

Corn was ready to harvest at this time. In the 1760s, Captain Jonathan Carver came across this Native American term during his travels. Similarly, the Western Abenaki called this the Corn Maker Moon, and the Dakota, the Corn Harvest Moon. NOTE: Harvest Moon refers to the full Moon closest to the September equinox, which is the tradition that The Old Farmer's Almanac follows. Moon When Rice is Laid Up to Dry (Dakota) refers to the time of harvesting and processing rice. Autumn Moon (Cree), Falling Leaves Moon (Ojibwe), Leaves Turning Moon (Anishinaabe), Moon of Brown Leaves (Lakota), and Yellow Leaf Moon (Assiniboine) all speak to the leaf-changing season. Child Moon (Tlingit) occurs when young animals are weaned. Mating Moon and Rutting Moon are Cree terms that describe the time when certain animals, such as moose, are ready to mate.

Old Farmer's Almanac - www.almanac.com

September 2026	
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Sep 1
QCX Challenge	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 1
ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 1
Tuesday's Telegraphy Contest	1930Z-2020Z, Sep 1
Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 2
A1Club AWT	1145Z-1300Z, Sep 2
CWops Test (CWT)	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 2
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Sep 2
Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Sep 2
Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Sep 2
CWops Test (CWT)	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 2
UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Sep 2
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	0000Z-0500Z, Sep 3
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Sep 3 and 0200Z-0300Z, Sep 4
CWops Test (CWT)	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 3
CWops Test (CWT)	0700Z-0800Z, Sep 3
NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1700Z-1800Z, Sep 3 (CW) and 1800Z-1900Z, Sep 3 (SSB) and 1900Z-2000Z, Sep 3 (FM) and 2000Z-2100Z, Sep 3 (Dig)
SKCC Sprint Europe	2000Z-2200Z, Sep 3
NCCC FT4 Sprint	0100Z-0130Z, Sep 4
Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 4
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 4
K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Sep 4
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Sep 5 to 2359Z, Sep 6
All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 5 to 2400Z, Sep 6
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0629Z, Sep 5 and 0630Z-0659Z, Sep 5 and 0700Z-0729Z, Sep 5 and 0730Z-0800Z, Sep 5
SARL VHF/UHF FM Contest	0800Z, Sep 5 to 1000Z, Sep 6
SARL Field Day Contest	0800Z, Sep 5 to 1000Z, Sep 6
Russian RTTY WW Contest	1200Z, Sep 5 to 1159Z, Sep 6
IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	1300Z, Sep 5 to 1259Z, Sep 6
RSGB SSB Field Day	1300Z, Sep 5 to 1300Z, Sep 6
AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Sep 5
IARU Region 1 145 MHz Contest	1400Z, Sep 5 to 1400Z, Sep 6
PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80m Sprint	2000Z, Sep 5 to 2000Z, Sep 6
CWOps CW Open	2000Z-2359Z, Sep 5
WAB 144 MHz Phone	1000Z-1400Z, Sep 6
Tennessee QSO Party	1700Z, Sep 6 to 0300Z, Sep 7
K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Sep 7
ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 7
OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	1630Z-1729Z, Sep 7
RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 7
ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 7
MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	2300Z, Sep 7 to 0300Z, Sep 8
ARS Spartan Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 8
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Sep 8
ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 8
DARC CW-Training Contest	1800Z-1859Z, Sep 8
Tuesday's Telegraphy Contest	1930Z-2020Z, Sep 8
Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 9
A1Club AWT	1145Z-1300Z, Sep 9
CWops Test (CWT)	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 9
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Sep 9
Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Sep 9

September 2026 Contest Calendar - Continued on page 56

September 2026 Contest Calendar - Continued from page 55

Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Sep 9
CWops Test (CWT)	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 9
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	0000Z-0500Z, Sep 10
CWops Test (CWT)	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 10
CWops Test (CWT)	0700Z-0800Z, Sep 10
NCCC FT4 Sprint	0100Z-0130Z, Sep 11
Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 11
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 11
K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Sep 11
K1USN SST Open	2000Z-2359Z, Sep 11
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 12 to 2359Z, Sep 13
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Sep 12 to 2400Z, Sep 13
SEANET Contest	1200Z, Sep 12 to 1200Z, Sep 13
Colorado QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 12 to 0359Z, Sep 13
New Jersey QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 12 to 0200Z, Sep 13
Ohio State Parks on the Air	1400Z-2200Z, Sep 12
Africa FT4 DX Contest	1500Z-1800Z, Sep 12
ARRL September VHF Contest	1800Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 14
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 13
IRTS 70cm Counties Contest	1300Z-1330Z, Sep 13
IRTS 2m Counties Contest	1330Z-1500Z, Sep 13
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 14
K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Sep 14
ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 14
OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	1630Z-1729Z, Sep 14
ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 14
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Sep 15
ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 15
Tuesday's Telegraphy Contest	1930Z-2020Z, Sep 15
Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 16
A1Club AWT	1145Z-1300Z, Sep 16
CWops Test (CWT)	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 16
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Sep 16
Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Sep 16
Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Sep 16
RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 16
CWops Test (CWT)	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 16
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	0000Z-0500Z, Sep 17
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Sep 17 and 0200Z-0300Z, Sep 18
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Sep 17
CWops Test (CWT)	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 17
CWops Test (CWT)	0700Z-0800Z, Sep 17
BCC QSO Party	1800Z-1959Z, Sep 17
NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 17
NCCC FT4 Sprint	0100Z-0130Z, Sep 18
Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 18
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 18
AGB NEMIGA Contest	1600Z-1700Z, Sep 18
K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Sep 18
FRAPR 10M Contest	0000Z, Sep 19 to 2359Z, Sep 20
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0900Z, Sep 19 to 0759Z, Sep 21
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	1200Z, Sep 19 to 1200Z, Sep 20
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 19 to 0200Z, Sep 20 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 20
Iowa QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 19 to 0200Z, Sep 20
QRP Afield	1500Z-2100Z, Sep 19
New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 19 to 0400Z, Sep 20 and 1200Z-2200Z, Sep 20

September 2026 Contest Calendar - Continued on page 57

September 2026 Contest Calendar - Continued from page 56

Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 19 to 0700Z, Sep 20 and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 20
Wisconsin Parks on the Air	1600Z-2300Z, Sep 19
Feld Hell Sprint	1800Z-1959Z, Sep 19
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 20
ARS Flight of the Bumblebees	1700Z-2100Z, Sep 20
BARTG Sprint PSK63 Contest	1700Z-2059Z, Sep 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Sep 20 to 0100Z, Sep 21
K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Sep 21
ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 21
OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	1630Z-1729Z, Sep 21
ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 21
144 MHz Fall Sprint	2300Z, Sep 21 to 0600Z, Sep 22
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Sep 22
ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 22
Tuesday's Telegraphy Contest	1930Z-2020Z, Sep 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 23
Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 23
A1Club AWT	1145Z-1300Z, Sep 23
CWops Test (CWT)	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 23
Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Sep 23
Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Sep 23
CWops Test (CWT)	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 23
CWops Test (CWT)	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 24
CWops Test (CWT)	0700Z-0800Z, Sep 24
RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 24
NCCC FT4 Sprint	0100Z-0130Z, Sep 25
Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 25
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 25
K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Sep 25
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 26 to 2400Z, Sep 27
Bill Windle QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 26
YU DX Contest	1200Z, Sep 26 to 1159Z, Sep 27
Maine QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 26 to 1200Z, Sep 27
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Sep 26 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Sep 26 (432)
Masonic Lodges on the Air	1400Z-2200Z, Sep 26
AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	2000Z, Sep 26 to 2400Z, Sep 27
UBA ON Contest, 6m	0700Z-1000Z, Sep 27
K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Sep 28
QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 28
ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 28
OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	1630Z-1729Z, Sep 28
QCX Challenge	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 28
RSGB FT4 Contest	1900Z-2100Z, Sep 28
ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 28
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Sep 29
QCX Challenge	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 29
ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 29
Tuesday's Telegraphy Contest	1930Z-2020Z, Sep 29
222 MHz Fall Sprint	2300Z, Sep 29 to 0600Z, Sep 30
Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 30
A1Club AWT	1145Z-1300Z, Sep 30
CWops Test (CWT)	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 30
Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Sep 30
Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Sep 30
CWops Test (CWT)	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 30
UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Sep 30

MONROE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
VENDORS WANTED – LIMITED SPOTS!
Fall
ARTS & CRAFTS
Festival
Save the Date!
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
10 AM TO 3 PM
FREE!
Family & Pet Friendly Event
So Much To Do!
Local Artisans & Crafters
Food Trucks
Local Businesses & Resource Tables
Face Painting
Balloon Art
Petting Zoo
Bounce Houses
Hair Tinsel
DJ & more!
One of our most highly attended events of the year! With strong foot traffic and nearly 300 vendors last year, this Main Street festival is the perfect place to sell, promote your business, and connect with the community.
WELCOME TO THE PFEIFFER CENTER
Parking
Pfeiffer Center (Church St side)
Newfield Bank
United Methodist Church
Bell-Hennessy Funeral Home
Side Streets along Main
SIGN UP AT:
tinyurl.com/FallCraft2026
Scan to Sign Up!

2026 Club Committees

Standing Committees	Committee Chairs
Budget	**John O'Connell K2QA**
Constitution & By-Laws	**Ron Block NR2B**
Education	**Chris Prioli AD2CS**
Field Day	**Jim Wright N2GXJ**
Hamfest	**Ron Block NR2B**
Health, Welfare, & Silent Keys	**Bill Price NJ2S**
Hospitality	**Jeff Garth WB2ZBN**
Membership & Membership Badges	**Chris Prioli AD2CS**
Publicity	**Mike Resnick N2WOQ**
Repeaters	**John Zaruba Jr K2ZA**
Volunteer Examiner Liaison	**Chris Prioli AD2CS**
W2MMD Clubhouse Site	**Al Arrison KB2AYU**

Activity Committees	Committee Chairs
Awards & Certificates	**GCARC Board of Directors**
Club Photographer	**Phil Nunzio WA3RGY**
Club Publications & Historian	**Jeff Garth WB2ZBN**
Contests	**Tony Starr K3TS**
GCARC Foxhunts	**Jim Wright N2GXJ**
GCARC Picnic	**Frank Romeo N3PUU**
GC-ARES Emergency Coordinator	**Bob Keogh KD2NEC**
Holiday Dinner Party	**Beth Barnish KB2EAL**
Membership Roster Database	**Jeff Garth WB2ZBN**
Nominations	**Jon Pearce WB2MNF**
Programs : General Membership Meetings	**Ron Block NR2B**
Radio Nets	**Steve Farney W2SEF & Jeff Garth WB2ZBN**
Technical (Tech Saturday, TechNets)	**Jon Pearce WB2MNF**
W2MMD License Trustee	**Darrell Neron AB2E**
W2MMD Special Event Station	**Mark Gottlieb KK2L**

GCARC <*at*> Mailman <*dot*> QTH <*dot*> Net e-mail reflector guidelines

1. **No attachments** (e.g. pictures, files) are allowed on the reflector.
2. If you have Club-related pictures that you would like to share, you can send them to the webmaster, he will put them on the website and will send out a general e-mail to all the members.
3. Otherwise, the pictures will have to be sent to the members' addresses.
4. URLs/Hyperlinks are acceptable on the reflector.
5. Do not send any messages with e-mail addresses in the **BCC** (**Blind Carbon Copy**) field. The message will be rejected. Use only the **To:** or **CC:** fields.
6. Members are subscribed to the reflector using the member's e-mail address from the roster database. You must use that address when sending an e-mail via the reflector.
7. If you use another address on the reflector, the message will get rejected or "*bounced*", because the reflector does not recognize that address. Whenever a message sent to reflector is rejected or *"bounced"* for various reasons, the administrator has to log-in to the Mailman.QTH website and approve the message.

The W2MMD Repeaters

2 Meter Repeater
Output : 147.180 MHz
Input : 147.780 MHz
Offset : +600 kHz - PL : 131.8 Hz
(Conventional FM plus C4FM Capability)
EchoLink : W2MMD-R

70 cm Repeater
Output : 442.100 MHz
Input : 447.100 MHz
Offset : +5 MHz - PL : 131.8 Hz
(Conventional FM plus C4FM Capability)

The above repeaters are both
located in Pitman, NJ
GPS : 39.728481°, -75.131088°

1.25 Meter Repeater
Output : 224.660 MHz
Input : 223.060 MHz
Offset : -1.6 MHz - PL : 131.8 Hz
Location : Sewell, NJ
GPS : 39.746738°, -75.077094°

SKYWARN™ Net
Sunday @ 1930 : 147.180 MHz Repeater

Gloucester County ARES Net
Sunday @ 2000 : 147.180 MHz Repeater

GCARC TechNet ZOOM Forum
Available Every Monday @ 1930 Hours
Join ZOOM Meeting Link :
https://bit.ly/3K8bWwj

Tuesday AfterNoon 2M Net @ 1200 Hours

Monday & Thursday Night 40M Net
1930 Hours : 7.172 MHz (+/- 10 kHz)

Thursday 2M Net @ 2000 Hours

All 2 Meter Nets Are Also On EchoLink :
W2MMD-R

Meeting Calendar

General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, September 02, 2026
1900 Hours
Pfeiffer Community Center
Simulcast Live on ZOOM
Meeting ID : 982 4039 1944
Passcode : 091084
Join ZOOM Meeting Link :
https://bit.ly/4s67geS

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2026
1900 Hours
W2MMD Clubhouse

"Ask not what your Club can do for you,
Ask what you can do for your Club"
- KA2OSV

"There's More To Ham Radio Than
You Can Possibly Do!"
- K3TS

*** Badges ***

Need a new or replacement badge
Contact "*The Badge Man*"

Chris Prioli AD2CS
chris@ad2cs.com

Question Pool Answers : E6D01:C; E6D02:A; E6D03:A; E6D04:B; E6D05:C; E6D06:D; E6D08:B; E6D09:C; E6D10:A; E6D11:B; E6D12:C